Welcome to this Spring edition of Bollington Town Council’s Newsletter

BOLLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

YOUR Chance To Help Shape Our Community’s Future

Preparation and information-gathering for the Neighbourhood Plan for Bollington are now underway. Volunteer response following public meetings in November 2014 and January 2015 has enabled the Steering Committee and a range of working subgroups to be set up, all involving local residents, business people and councillors. Their task: To help deliver one of the most important planning documents in Bollington’s history, because this Neighbourhood Plan will aim to positively shape Bollington’s future for the next 15 years or more.

BUT our Neighbourhood Plan can only be produced successfully with the direct input, support and approval of the local community. That is why we want to establish the essential communication process at this early stage with residents, local businesses, community groups and organisations throughout Bollington.

Established by the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Plans mean that local people and communities are now able to directly influence and establish general planning policies for the neighbourhoods. This means that our Neighbourhood Plan will give us the opportunity to have a real say in planning decisions covering where new houses, employment opportunities, shops and other buildings should be located in Bollington. We will also be able to secure community contributions from these developments to improve our schools and other community facilities. The Plan will take some time to complete as the process must be carried out thoroughly.

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The Plan must also be consistent with the Cheshire East, Central Government and European guidance, and meet a number of legal requirements.

Given Bollington’s special heritage and characteristics, an effective evidence-based Neighbourhood Plan will be vital in ensuring that land development in our area meets the needs and wishes of the local community. Again, this is where YOU come in, because if our Plan is to achieve its objectives and stand up to scrutiny, it must be based on firm evidence gathered through proper community engagement and consultation. We will need to hear from you in order to establish a comprehensive and accurate assessment of local social, economic and environmental conditions and issues.

That is why the Steering Committee and five subgroups are now working on plans to ensure that the people of Bollington are given a comprehensive opportunity to have their say in the development of our Neighbourhood Plan, and particularly to obtain important evidence covering a range of key topics, including:

- Housing
- Traffic & Transport
- Employment, Business & Community Services
- Open Spaces
- Conservation & Heritage

Therefore, over the next year to 18 months we will be using a number of consultation methods and publicity to obtain your views and give you the opportunity to contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan. These are likely to include the use of questionnaires, leaflets, public meetings, open days, workshops, interviews, websites, online surveys and social networking.

If you have any questions or comments at this stage – or would like to volunteer your support – we would love to hear from you. Please use the contact details shown below.

The importance of the Neighbourhood Plan for Bollington cannot be overstated. These Plans are protected by law, and must be taken into account by local planning authorities in considering all applications for development. With your support, we are determined to produce a Neighbourhood Plan that is right for Bollington, its residents and its future.

Councillor Amanda Stott
Town Mayor
Bollington Town Council
Town Hall
Wellington Road
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SK10 5JR

David Naylor
Town Clerk
Bollington Town Council
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Wellington Road
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SK10 5JR

Email: np@bollington-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.bollington-tc.gov.uk/np
What has recently happened and what will happen over the next 18 months?
The following is a brief and truncated overview of the key actions

- We have applied for designation of the Plan Area as everything within the Bollington Parish boundary
- We have established a budget but will also be applying for a Government grant
- We are preparing a detailed project plan
- We have set terms of reference for the various sub groups and they are now meeting
- We are preparing a community questionnaire and the sub groups are helping to set the questions. These will be delivered to every house and business in Bollington
- We will be holding public meetings feeding back the results of the questionnaire
- We will be gathering lots of other information from sources such as the Bollington Socio Economic Profile and from a wide range of local organisations and merging it with your feedback from the questionnaires. This will provide our evidence base
- We will identify our vision and objectives
- We will identify key issues/themes for the Plan to address
- We will then consult on our vision, objectives, issues and themes following which we will refine and finalise our vision, objectives, issues and themes
- We will look at what exists in Cheshire East’s Local Plan and National Planning policies to identify gaps in supporting the delivery of our vision and objectives etc
- We will then start to draft the Plan and its policies including a land allocation section detailing where and what development should take place in Bollington between now and 2030
- We will then consult again
- Finally the Plan will be subject to a local referendum of all voters. This is required to obtain the community’s approval that it represents the will of the community
- Throughout this process we will be working closely with Cheshire East Council and funding our own expert consultants

Why Not Become a Bollington Town Councillor

Town and Parish Councils deliver a range of local services and represent the voice of the local community. They are also consulted by larger councils, such as Cheshire East, on important issues. Councillors are a key mechanism for identifying and progressing initiatives to meet local needs and aspirations. Bollington Town Council has achieved “Quality Status”, which confirms its credentials in terms of administrative, financial and democratic competence. In terms of financial competence, Bollington levies a precept on all local households, and for 2015/16 this will be £58 per Band D property. In addition the Council bids for funding, such as that secured to build the skatepark, the forthcoming improvements to Adlington Road Childrens’ Play Area, the New Bowling Pavilion and improvements to the Civic Hall.
The Town Council’s annual spend is about £200,000 but we can generate much more local investment through our links with service provider organisations such as Cheshire East Council. This year, 4 or 5 of our town councillors will be standing down after many years of excellent service but all 12 seats, 4 in each of our 3 wards, are up for election. Why not become a councillor yourself? Elections to the Town Council will be part of Local and Parliamentary elections on 7 May 2015.

Being a town councillor has never been more important as we see Cheshire East Council pulling back from the delivery or management of assets and services and offering them to local bodies such as ourselves. Since taking on the Civic Hall, the Town Council has almost tripled income from bookings and slashed the operating costs. The role is also more important as we move to secure local control of future development within our town up until 2030 with a Neighbourhood Plan. We will then be able to decide what sort of development should take place in Bollington and where that should go.

It won’t be an easy life and you won’t get paid but it will be very rewarding. You will be supported by a small team of professional officers. You will be local, accountable and very much in the know about almost everything that happens in our community. There will be frustrations but Bollington has a very strong community spirit and a loud voice – add your voice to that.

**Qualification Criteria**

To be nominated as a candidate a person must be:

- 18 years or over on the day of your nomination
- A British, Commonwealth, or Irish Citizen, or a citizen of another Member State of the European Union.
- AND at least one of the following:
  - You must be registered as a voter in Bollington, OR
  - For the whole of the 12 months prior to election day, an Owner or Tenant of any land or premises in Bollington, OR
  - Your principal or only place of work during those 12 months or more has been in Bollington, OR
  - You have lived in the Town or within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) during the whole of the 12 months.

**Disqualification Criteria**

You cannot seek election if:

- You work for or hold paid office under the Town Council
- You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- Have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the past 5 years
- Have been disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices.

**The Nomination Process**

If you qualify, as above, you may then be nominated after the Notice of Election has been published. The Notice of Election will be published on 20 March and the deadline for nomination will be 9 April. To be nominated you must be proposed and seconded and the proposer and seconder must live in the ward you intend to stand in. You can apply now to vote by post by emailing electoral.Information@cheshireeast.gov.uk or calling 0300 123 5016. Once you receive your postal vote application follow the instructions provided.
The election date is Thursday 7 May. Nomination papers will be available from the Town Council Offices and to download from our own or Cheshire East’s Website. Please note that there is a strict timetable that candidates must adhere to. Further details of the timetable can be obtained from Bollington Town Council or Cheshire East Council. Contact details are provided below. If you wish to represent a political party you will need to seek nomination by them otherwise you will stand as an independent.

If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor and standing for election in May 2015 please contact David Naylor, Town Clerk. Should you wish to discuss the possibility of standing, either David or any current councillor will be happy to inform and assist. Contact details are below, and on our website.

Please note that only the Returning Officer, based at Cheshire East Council, can accept and approve the nominations. Town and Parish elections are run on the same day as Borough elections and Cheshire East Council are the responsible body in terms of organisation and management of the election. Relevant Contact Details are as follows:

David Naylor
Town Clerk
Bollington Town Council
Town Hall
Wellington Road
Bollington
Cheshire, SK10 5JR
Tel 01625 572985
www.bollington-tc.gov.uk

The Returning Officer
Electoral Services
Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Middlewich Road
Sandbach
Cheshire CW11 1HZ
Tel: 0300 123 55 00
www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Investment continues at the Civic Hall with the recent installation of retractable seating. It will enable a quick turn round time for bookings which require 100 seats and can be followed quickly by bookings which require the whole space of the Hall. It will also increase bookings for drama and shows, and we will be another step nearer to having periodic cinema evenings and children’s matinées in accordance with the Hall’s recently acquired cinema licence. Use of the Hall continues to increase and since taking on the premises, income has almost tripled. Other improvements are in the pipeline including new acoustic energy efficient windows and new folding doors to replace the tired concertina partitions. The Town Council would like to thank Bollington Light Opera Group for their help in specifying the right seating for the venue and in their kind offer of funding to help with other Civic Hall improvements.
The Town Council has become the responsible financial body for replacing the Bowling Hut on the Bollington Recreation Ground. The Ground and Hut are owned by Cheshire East Council, however, the process of replacing this worn-out building had been the subject of prolonged delay in spite of significant community funding from the Kay Metzeler development. Bollington Town Council has acted in a similar capacity before in relation to the Skate Park, tendering the work, overseeing the construction, paying for the works and claiming that back from Cheshire East. The work will start in April and be completed by Mid May. Nab Construction, a local company, secured the work from four other competitive bids. Nab have a lot of experience in building wooden framed houses and other buildings. The existing hut is shown above. The new hut will be larger, better equipped and more secure. It will also have access for people using wheel chairs or other mobility aids.

Adlington Road Play Area

You may recall that The Town Council, on behalf of Cheshire East, submitted a bid to WREN, the landfill tax body which issues community grants. The sum requested was £42,000 to replace aging play equipment at the play area. The slide in particular had been condemned over a year ago and had been removed. Some equipment is modern and offers challenge and interest to children but most requires replacement. WREN has provided a lot of grants to Bollington and our bid coincided with a bid from Bollington Health and Leisure. WREN do not normally give more than one grant in the same grant period to the same town or parish and Adlington Road was moved to the next bid round.

We are pleased to report that it has now been approved and Cheshire East are in the process of tendering the work. Cheshire East have also upgraded the kick-about area adjacent to the play area which will see a total investment of almost £60,000. We are expecting the work to be completed by early summer. Above is the concept drawing of how it could look provided by Kompani, the winning bidder.
Rowlands Chemist

Rowlands Chemist is moving into the space vacated by doctors at the Waterhouse Medical Centre. They will have lots more space, be able to stock more medicines and will have a consulting room for customers. There will be an entrance on the Wellington Road frontage and a safe crossing for those visiting after seeing the doctor. The entrance to the Medical Centre car park will also be improved to provide more visibility and less conflict between cars and pedestrians.

Improved Mobile Signal

New mobile phone antennas are likely to be erected jointly by Vodafone and Telefonica on the tower at Adelphi Mill which should improve mobile phone coverage in Bollington which in some areas of the Town is woefully poor. The work being carried out will be very discreet and will be almost unnoticeable on this historic mill. We also have some sharing of the antennas by other providers which is good news. Let’s hope all this translates into better service for Bollington including 4G instead of at present no G at all!

Concern over Ingersley Vale Delays

Like it or hate it, the Ingersely Vale former mill site has planning permission for houses. It is situated in Rainow but residents of that development will use Bollington’s facilities because the access to and from the site is through Bollington.

Although the site has had planning permission for about 5 years very little has happened except for the removal of most of the old mill, change of ownership of the site and further degradation of the remaining mill structure. The site was subsequently acquired by the Homes and Communities Agency, a Government organisation charged with promoting house building. However, they have struggled to find a developer willing to purchase the site and deliver on their housing promise.

Meetings have been held recently with the HCA, Town Council, Cheshire East Council and Bollington Civic Society to urge the HCA and Cheshire East Council to get a grip of this problem and salvage something from this historic site. Part of the problem is the nature of the site and its attractiveness or lack of it for prospective residents. Turning it back into an employment site is apparently not a viable alternative.

The options seems to be for the HCA to take a realistic view of the value of the site when marketing it again for development and to ensure that any development takes account of the need to sensitively improve the access road to the site. It could be left as a romantic ruin but the remaining parts of the mill are not robust enough and the end result will be a dangerous eyesore. We should remember that the mill had the biggest waterwheel in England of which the wheel enclosure and supply channel still remain. The Town Council would like to thank Tim Boddington for his continuing role as a thorn in the side of all parties who are presiding over inactivity in resolving this matter.
Stop Press, Dates for Your Diary and Contacts

Look out for the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire landing on your doormat from 17 May. There will be reminders around the Town and on The Thread Radio in the weeks and days before you receive it. Please ensure you fill it in by 30 June.

Also look our for the drop-in sessions at local venues, which can help you with the Questionnaires, keep you informed of progress and seek your views as the Plan develops.

Hustings are planned in Bollington during April when you can challenge the prospective candidates for Member of Parliament. Watch out for the date and venue.

Dates for Your Diary

Council Meetings & Planning Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at Bollington Town Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak. All Council and Planning Agendas are posted on our noticeboards around the Town six days before the meetings. All meeting dates, agendas and minutes of all our meetings are posted on our website.

Next Council Meeting: 8.00pm 7/04/15 following the Planning meeting which start at 7.30pm
Next Planning Meeting: 7.30pm 7/04/15 and 21/04/15

Your Town Councillors

Note that Town Councillors, Cheshire East Councillors and our MP will all be seeking election on 7 May and these may change

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Your Cheshire East Councillors

Bill Livesley
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Peter Hayes
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Your MP

David Rutley
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Town Hall Closure Easter Holidays 03/04/15-6/04/15

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