



Newsletter Autumn 2007

Housing and Employment Allocations in Holmes Chapel

As part of the preparation of its Local Development Framework, Congleton Borough Council will be carrying out a consultation exercise in September and October and have prepared preliminary reports. Copies of the reports are available for inspection at all libraries and one-stop shops in the Borough during normal opening times. (See Holmes Chapel opening times below). In addition, copies can be downloaded from the CBC web site by using the following link: <http://www.congleton.gov.uk/?t=449>

There are effectively two consultations - one about Site Allocations and the other about Housing Land Supply (relaxation of the Moratorium). The details of the sites for development in Holmes Chapel are:

Site ref	Site	Proposed use	Estimated**	
			No. of dwellings	Employment land (hectares)
R1	Victoria Mill, Macclesfield Rd	Housing	130	
R2	Land at Junction 18	Employment (B1)	-	6
R3	Sanofi Aventis / Rhodia site	Employment; Housing; Community use	150	7

** Please remember that developers will probably seek to increase these numbers when they apply for detailed planning permission

This exercise will have far reaching consequences for the village and this is our opportunity to ensure that our voices are heard. Already there have been meetings with the Borough Council to finalise the planning needs of the area for the next 5+ years and we have voiced our opinions strongly over previous proposals.

This is a new round of proposals and to our astonishment a site for industrial use on the outskirts of Holmes Chapel has been included.

The Parish Council realise the village cannot stay the same and we see the need for more housing, especially affordable and low cost housing. **In principle**, therefore, we are in favour of the proposed development of the Aventis site and Victoria Mill with some caveats:-

- We would want assurances that the development would not overload village services
- We would expect the developers to contribute to village improvements by way of legal agreements under Town Planning legislation.

However, we cannot see any justification for any further commercial sites.

At the previous consultation stage we argued for site R2 to be removed and our case was accepted. It is therefore important that we put our case strongly yet again and we need your support for this.

Holmes Chapel Parish Council

www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk

To this end, we have prepared a pro forma letter to which we would ask you to add your name, address and signature before forwarding it to Congleton Borough Council. Further copies of the letter can be downloaded from the Parish Council web site or obtained from members of the Parish Council. Alternatively, please feel free to compose your own letter using the essential information provided in the pro forma and ensuring that your comments specify the site or paragraph of the CBC document to which they refer.

Comment forms can be obtained from Westfields Sandbach or from One Stop Shops or downloaded from Congleton Borough Council web site

Closing date for comments **Friday 12 October 2007 at 5.00 p.m.**

Letters can be forwarded to the Borough Council in several different ways

Post	The Local Planning and Economic Planning Policy Manager, Congleton Borough Council, FREEPOST NWW 3124A, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1BR
Email	localplanning@congleton.gov.uk
Fax	01270 529889
By Hand	to a One Stop Shop. The normal opening times for the One Stop Shop in Holmes Chapel are: Monday 2.00 - 5.30 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

A series of public meetings has been arranged at which you can voice your opinions. It is important that we have a good turn out for the one in Holmes Chapel if we are to have any influence at this stage.

Monday 24 September 2007

Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre at 7.00 p.m.

Please attend and make your views known.

Village Centre Improvements

Work started in the village on 13th August and by the time you receive this newsletter the programme should be well advanced. The aim is for completion by the end of October but you should be getting an impression already of the transformation in the appearance of the village centre. The main benefit of this work is to ensure our village continues to be an active centre for both residents and businesses. We hope it will encourage people to shop in the village rather than going further afield and that it will attract retail and other suitable businesses to the village centre.

However, we are well aware of the difficulties the work has caused and that road closures and the temporary loss of a car park have inconvenienced some residents and businesses. By timing the work over the school holidays we believe we have at least reduced the level of disruption as far as possible.

Although diversion signs are clearly displayed the contractors have been hampered regularly by some motorists who continue to ignore the diversions. Contractors and police are doing their best to limit this behaviour which is proving dangerous for pedestrians who assume the road is traffic free. Motorists are also using Sandiford Road rather than the specified diversion route of Manor Lane and we have taken this up with the police. The next phase of work will allow one way traffic through the village which we hope will ease the problems a little.

Further donations to the cost of the work have been received from Barclays and NatWest Banks. In addition, WBB Minerals are providing the boulders for the landscaped area free of charge and an additional cash contribution towards the planting scheme.

This programme of work is a major investment in the future of Holmes Chapel which we hope will continue to add value for many years to come.

Many people have enjoyed the temporary pedestrianisation and it has been a good opportunity to observe the impact on traffic flows both with total diversion and one way traffic. We would be interested in your views of whether you feel Holmes Chapel would benefit from a more permanent arrangement assuming that all traffic flow problems could be solved.

Results of Annual Garden Competition

The judging in the annual village garden competition is now complete. All front gardens in the village are included in the competition so there is no need to enter. The judges are looking for gardens which are interesting for a long period over the year as well as an impressive summer display.

Despite a difficult gardening year as a result of the weather, we found some excellent displays. Some residents always make an effort but we always seem to find a few new surprises. This year was no exception and our award has gone to a new winner, Mr and Mrs Walker of 52 Coniston Drive, who have created an all year round garden with a range of trees and shrubs.

The runner up was also a new entry into the awards, Mr and Mrs Palmer at 6, Lochmaben Close with a garden containing an interesting range of mainly herbaceous plants. Third prize this year went to Mr and Mrs Ward whose garden at 91 Ravenscroft has been much admired for many years and is a past winner of the award.

The separate class of award for the front garden of houses for the elderly was won by Mr and Mrs Moore at 52 Northway with a fine summer display along the front of their house. It was hard work selecting a winner because there were several other gardens which were close contenders in this category.

Finally, an award is made for the best window display of the retail premises in the village and this year it has gone to Morreys which consistently creates interesting displays of their stock.

The awards will be presented formally in Holmes Chapel Library on Saturday 22 September at 10.00am and all are welcome to this event.

Police Community Support Officer

After a period of training the PCSO, James Cornish, started his duties in Holmes Chapel on 1 April. His presence on the village is already starting to pay dividends.

James attended a Parish Council meeting at the beginning of August to report on his first 4 months of duty. His view was that, overall, there are now less problems in the village centre and other hot spots. He is keen to see the provision of facilities for the young people of Holmes Chapel and the Parish Council have taken this issue on board.

Amongst other items of report James was able to say that he had assisted local police to foil a robbery on Manor Lane.

The Parish Council are under no illusions about the extent of anti-social behaviour in the area. At the time of going to press, the Police are under pressure because of further behaviour problems and also because of the traffic problems caused by the work in the village centre, especially on Sandiford Road and Manor Lane and because motorists are not obeying the 'No Through Road' signs.

However, the Council are pleased that James' work has got off to a good and positive start but they will continue to monitor the success of the scheme, the cost of which is £11,000 per annum for the Parish Council

Grants for Youth Groups

Following the article in the Summer Newsletter Councillor Rab Parry has reported the following results:

- £7,000 to Holmes Chapel Scouts for camping equipment.
- Almost £7,000 To Holmes Chapel Cricket Club for an artificial wicket and coaching for youngsters.
- Almost £2,000 to Cranage Playschool for replacing safety mats and attendant works - this group could be subject to an increased grant up to £3,500

There is still grant money available to youth groups up to a maximum of £7,000 from the Local Network Fund. Applications must be completed and lodged before the end of November 2007 because the fund closes in December

Rab asks that any interested groups should contact him for further details – see contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Kinderton Waste Tip

At the time of going to press the Parish Council had just received notification that the planning appeal had been allowed. Although there are other issues like operator's licences to be resolved, this is very bad news because it gives the tip the go ahead from a planning point of view. The Local Councils in the area will be considering whether it is possible to appeal against this decision or to pursue other forms of objection. For further information please watch the Parish Council web site.

Members of the Parish council with contact details

	Members	Telephone	Email **
Clerk of the Council	David Cowgill	01565 631528	clerk@
Chairman	David Savage	01477 537464	david.savage@
Vice Chairman	Alan Ashworth	01477 537690	
	John Clowes	01477 532266	john.clowes@
	Patricia Cotton	01477 537491	patricia.cotton@
	George Laws	07710 736 758	george.laws@
	May Mackenzie	01477 532007	may.mackenzie@
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	John Norton	01477 537189	
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**** All email addresses have the domain name holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk**

e.g. david.savage@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk

For more details of items in this newsletter and for other communications, please see:

- **The Parish Council website (www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk)**
- **The Council notice board located outside the village library**