



Newsletter Autumn 2009

Objection to the Proposed Incinerator at Middlewich

The Parish Council has resolved to object to the proposed incinerator at Middlewich on the grounds of need and policy.

When the Council received the planning application a number of your Councillors immediately reviewed the details of the application, which was a significant task as it ran to several lever arch files. As a council our initial responsibility was to try to find out the facts about the incinerator and its potential impact on the surrounding environment. This is not an easy task as all experts in the field are experts because they have a vested interest in the technology or a fixed view against it. We are also well aware that as we generate waste we need to find appropriate ways to dispose of it. Finally the council needed to explore the planning reasons for the application so that any objection could be based on planning reasons.

Your Parish Council resolved to object on the grounds summarised below

1. Holmes Chapel Parish Council supports the principles of the waste hierarchy, and accept that there is a role for Energy from Waste as a better environmental alternative to landfill.
2. Holmes Chapel Parish Council supports the Cheshire Consolidated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
3. Holmes Chapel Parish Council objects to the planning application for an incinerator in Middlewich on the basis of need. The planned incinerator and mechanical biological treatment capacity in Cheshire is more than 3 times the forecasted combined total of residual Municipal Solid Waste and Commercial and Industrial Waste generated in Cheshire, without the proposed incinerator in Middlewich.
4. Approving this application would result in waste being imported into Cheshire and would be counter to the Environment Agency's principles for energy from waste.
5. Because there is no established need for the proposal and it would result in waste being imported from outside Cheshire, there would be an unnecessary increase in volumes of traffic using surrounding roads, in particular the A54 which is severely congested already; also it would result in additional and unnecessary pollution and environmental issues.

More details are available on our website www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk

Car Parking

Cheshire East Council recently held a public meeting at the Leisure Centre to hear local residents' views on their plans to charge for car parking in the village. The meeting was well attended by Parish Councillors.

East Cheshire Council outlined their reasons for planning to introduce charges, which they said were to allow on street parking to be controlled, reduce car journeys and as a source of income.

The majority of comments at the meeting were negative, although a number of alternative suggestions were made, including transferring responsibility for the car parks to the Parish Council. The council have written to Cheshire East Council asking them to postpone the decision on the car parks while we investigate the situation and explore the potential support from adjacent parish councils, but we are not hopeful that we will get a favourable decision.

Summer Reading Challenge at Holmes Chapel Library

Holmes Chapel Library has once again challenged local primary school children to read six books over the summer holidays. This is a national initiative and all Cheshire libraries are involved. Each year has a different theme and this year was a fantasy theme with the name Quest Seekers. Children collect stickers for each mission completed. There is a large colourful folder for them to display their stickers (some of them smelly!) and should they succeed in their mission to read six books, they are invited to an awards ceremony in September to receive a special medal and certificate.

Running alongside this we have had two competitions; one to design a magical creature and another to colour-in Drax the Dragon. As a result of library staff going into local schools to talk to children about the challenge and thanks to the schools for promoting the scheme so enthusiastically, over 250 children have signed up at Holmes Chapel – a huge increase on previous years! Response to our competitions has also been amazing and we are hoping to be able to display all the children's work in the library in September. A creative writing workshop, a Warhammer workshop, and a magical storytime have also been offered and were well attended.

We have been delighted with the response from the local community. The children of Holmes Chapel certainly rose to the challenge!

Gaynor Wason – Holmes Chapel Library

Garden Competition

Once again the quality of gardens made the job of the judges for the Best Kept Garden competition hard. At the same time as they view the gardens of Holmes Chapel they also walk the Village Centre to assess what they consider to be the best display in a shop window. It is expected that the winners will be awarded their prizes at the Library on Saturday 3 October 2009 at 11.30 a.m. Congratulations go to:

2009 Champion	91 Ravenscroft
2009 Runners up	8 Helton Close & 5 Hillcrest Avenue
2009 Senior Garden Champion	66 Sutton Oaks
Best Shop Window Display	Serendipity, 32 London Road

Village Volunteers

Holmes Chapel Parish Council would like to thank the Village Volunteers for the work they have done in the centre of the village this year.

The group of volunteers have spent time maintaining the flowerbeds within the village centre

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and clearing up areas, which have become untidy. At the same time Cheshire East Council have been maintaining the hanging baskets they provide. Together they are helping to keep the village look at its best.

Grants and donations

The Council has agreed to make a number of grants and donations. In accordance with the Council's policy, the recipients have had to demonstrate a case to justify the award in their favour.

The grants and donations are:

Holmes Chapel Community Pre-school	Rebuilding of disabled ramp
Community Rail Partnership	Help point for the Holmes Chapel to Crewe line when the station is unmanned
Youth Centre	General assistance
CAB	General assistance
First Responders	General assistance
Local History Group	Assist with the purchase of cabinet to store archive material at Library
St. Luke's PCC	Churchyards maintenance
St. Luke's Hospice	General assistance

The Council has a budget of £5,000 for the current year, so there remains a small balance, which will be reviewed in December 2009

In addition there are Grassroots grants and Sports Relief grants available. Details can be found at www.cheshireaction.org.uk or by contacting James Backhouse at Cheshire Community Action on 01244 323602 or Rab Parry (see contact details below)

Resignation of Mr John Norton

Mr John Norton has resigned from Holmes Chapel Parish Council. John had been a member of the Council since 2006 and had been involved in a number of projects, particularly planning for future improvements of play areas. Members of the Council would like to pay tribute to John's work and express disappointment that it has not been possible for him to return to meetings following a serious illness last year.

Holmes Chapel Parish Plan Update

We are delighted to say that, after a lot of hard work refining the findings and proposals, the Parish Plan is nearing completion.

In May we sent a Consultation document to every household in the Parish, outlining our initial findings (from the 2008 questionnaire) and proposed actions. We attended three events – the Village Fair, Annual Parish Meeting and Holmes Chapel Today – where we put up displays and were able to talk to quite a few of you, getting your views on all aspects of the Plan; we also had a smaller display and comment box in the Library. Since then we have been refining the draft Plan, checking that the proposed actions are backed up by evidence, and turning the draft into something which can be published as a formal document (with photos, graphics, etc.) to use in the next stage – implementing the actions, and seeking funding from outside bodies.

We are hoping to publish by the end of October. Due to the high cost of printing (around £6 a copy) and the environmental considerations of printing 2500 copies of a 40-page document, we

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will not be sending a copy to every household. Instead the full document – as well as updates on progress- will be available on our website (www.hcparishplan.org.uk); for those who do not have access to computers or the internet, we will make a small number of printed copies available in the Library – this will be for reference only.

The next stage, after publication, is to take the various proposed actions forward as a number of projects, and start making improvements around the Parish. To do this **we need more volunteers** – you can put in as much or as little time as you are able, but typically each project would require a couple of hours a week from each team member over a period of three to six months.

If you are interested in volunteering, or have comments for our attention, please contact us by email (holmeschapelparishplan@live.co.uk) or write to me at 41 Portree Drive, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7JB.

Stuart Gammon

Holmes Chapel Parish Plan Steering Group

(Please note that the Holmes Chapel Parish Plan Steering Group is an independent group of volunteers representing the residents of Holmes Chapel)

Officers and Members of the Parish Council with contact details

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**** All email addresses have the domain name holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk
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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**

Parish Council Office – 1 Church Walk Holmes Chapel CW4 7AZ – Tel 01477 533934