

# Parish Council news

## Conservation Area Improvements

The Holmes Chapel Parish Council, working with the Local History Group of the U3A, is keen to raise awareness of the Conservation Area in the village. The historic heart of the village surrounding St. Luke's church contains a range of interesting buildings, all with their own story to tell. The more we make people aware of the area the more visitors will come to the benefit of our local traders.

Firstly we want to add four interpretation panels around the area to explain a little about the history of the village.



Draft versions on display in the Holmes Chapel library in early March and we would appreciate your views on our plans. The Co-op generously donated £1832 from their local community fund to the History Group, which will go towards the panels. Then we want to add street signs in a heritage style. The village centre is surprisingly lacking in signs so we hope they will be useful as well as attractive features. Finally, at this stage, we are circulating businesses in the area. We want to see if we can work together to improve the overall appearance of the area by ensuring all signage works to the benefit of the business as well as enhancing the heritage character of the area.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council will be holding its Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 20th March. It is to be held in the Holmes Chapel Community Centre, at 7pm.

We hope to see as many parishioners as can make it – free refreshments will be provided for all. This is your opportunity to ask questions of your Parish Councillors and about Holmes Chapel. For further details, including the speaker, see our website.

## 2017/18 Budget

Holmes Chapel Parish Council resolved at its Full Council meeting on 11 January 2018 to set its precept at £209,406 for 2018-19. This equates to a 2.8% increase in a band D property from last year. The annual charge will be £79.69 per householder for a band D property.

The small increase allows for an increase in Village services and planting/maintenance. Holmes Chapel Parish Council is a proactive council who have several capital projects earmarked for the next twelve months, including improvements to our conservation area, increased traffic monitoring and a further extension to the Christmas lighting scheme.

Cllr Brian Bath, Chairman of the Council commented "We are aware that Cheshire East Council and the Fire and Police authorities have all indicated their intention to increase their budgets to fulfil their duties and services provided. The Parish Council has reviewed all its expenditure and where possible made savings but has had to make the same decision for a small increase. We are pleased that the major projects that were required to provide services and facilities at the Community Centre

are now mostly complete. The increase will cost a band D property an additional £2.67 per year which we feel is good value for money for the work the Parish Council undertakes.”

## **Meet your Parish Council Vice-Chairman John Clowes.**



### **How long have you lived in the Village?**

Linda and I moved into our house in Holmes Chapel in 1979. Our house is one of the older buildings in the village and had all we wanted - a large garden, a house of character and surrounding countryside. I little realised in 1979 that in 2018 we would still be renovating the house!

### **What makes it feel like home?**

At the time we did not know the village and we did not appreciate then what a great community it is. We have made many friends here and one of the attractions is walking though the village at any time and always coming across someone you know. Not only that, but even strangers nod and make eye contact – it’s such a friendly place! It may have grown a lot - and is still growing - but it still has not lost its central heart. I am sure I am not the only one who feels his spirits rise coming up the hill from Knutsford and seeing the old familiar buildings around the church.

### **What frustrates you about the village?**

I can’t imagine many places better to live than Holmes Chapel - it is an attractive village, there is very little crime, we have a reasonable range of shops, we are surrounded by easily accessible countryside and the delights of city life are not far away. It’s not perfect and higher standards of maintenance services such as grass cutting, roadways and footpaths would please a lot of people. And we would all like more car parking spaces and less traffic through the village. Most frustrating though are the small minority of people who behave without consideration for others – dropping litter, not cleaning up after their dogs and driving selfishly.

### **Why did you become a Councillor?**

As a keen gardener, when the Village Volunteers Group was set up I was asked by the Parish Council to help organise the activities. From attending council meetings to discuss this work I realised what opportunities there were, as a councillor, to improve the village in many other areas. We all have skills we have acquired over the years so when I had some spare time it was a chance to put something back into the community.



### **Contacting the Parish Council**

The office at, 1 Church Walk, is generally open Tuesday to Friday mornings, 9am to 12 noon.

Contact can be made by email to: [clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk) by telephone: 01477 533934 or via our website:

[www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk)