

8.0 Summary of Action Plan

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY MATTERS

Recommendation 1.

The Town Council should review its method of operation to ensure a close working liaison with the Cheshire East Unitary Council. It should consider appointing a Leader of the Council and individual members to take a special interest in different service areas. This should be reviewed as the modus operandi of Cheshire East Council develops.

Recommendation 2.

The Town Council should obtain information on the way in which other Cheshire Market Towns have funded development officer posts and explore the possibility of a member of staff being trained to undertake such a role for promoting improvement projects in the Town. They should explore the possibility of obtaining support from one of the major local firms in the area of providing a secondee to support such work. They should also promote the general need for volunteers for various organisations in the Town.

PROVISION OF SERVICES

Recommendation 3.

The Town Council should have in place a mechanism for deciding priorities for the duties of the PCSO supported by Council funding, taking account of views expressed at the periodic Community Action Team meetings. The Town Council needs to review the funding it provides to support the PCSO in advance of the expected phasing out of central Government funding support.

Recommendation 4.

The Town Council should confirm and strengthen its strategy for dealing with graffiti with a specialist contractor appointed to deal with any major incidences or with historic/sensitive structure and a small volunteer group to deal with occasional cases.

Recommendation 5 – (modified from 2004 Plan).

The Town Council should promote a review of the effectiveness of the present coverage by Home Watch schemes in the Town, and seek to encourage new and existing schemes to share experiences to ensure that they remain effective.

Recommendation 6.

Local people are encouraged to take advice from the Ecoteams programme and for transport aspects to use public transport or other alternative to cars, to use lower polluting cars, to explore car sharing and to adopt walking or cycling alternatives where possible.

Recommendation 7.

There is pressure for a return to weekly collections of domestic refuse. The household recycling collection scheme currently operated by Macclesfield Borough Council should be extended to include more waste streams, particularly for plastics and Tetra Paks. Waste reduction and home composting should be promoted and encouraged. The responsible authority should publish data on the amount of recycling by different town/parish communities in its area. The recycling centres in Bollington are highly valued by the community and should be retained and extended.

Recommendation 8.

The relevant Authority responsible for Highway matters should be requested to instruct its Highways Department to engage with local communities in a meaningful way to minimise disruption from essential road repairs and to agree timely and correctly specified improvements within available budgets.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Recommendation 9.

The zone between the Middlewood Way through the Recreation Ground, across the proposed new footbridge to the Clarence Mill and on to the Memorial Gardens and the Historic Triangle should be recognised as the central visitor zone. There is potential for new car parking up the region known as Pleasuregate beside the canal footbridge that would reinforce this and provide a welcoming focus for visitors.

Recommendation 10.

The character of Bollington is enhanced strongly by the distinctive nature of the diverse range of shops providing goods and services to the community. Every effort should be made to retain these shops in the Town and residents are encouraged to support their local businesses as much as possible. This should be a significant factor in determining planning applications for re-use of shops and businesses. Local shopping and food production also help reduce the carbon footprint of the Town and this can be aided by EcoTeam discussions.

Recommendation 11 (retained from 2004 Plan).

The possibility should be explored of improving the shopping environment by developing a different type of economy such as Tourism or perhaps a specialist topic such as books or antiques, or by developing a new small area with parking facilities.

Recommendation 12.

It is essential for the businesses in the Town to be involved in the Community and for their views on future developments in the Town to be taken into account. The strongest concerns about issues affecting businesses were disruption due to roadworks and parking matters.

LAND AND ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation 13.

Discussions with the Planning Authority on the Supplementary Planning Statement for Bollington have suggested that no changes are currently warranted but the Town Council may wish to review this. The Supplementary Planning Statement should be retained and applied to give firm guidance on the type of development which would be acceptable if a large site became vacant within the Town, such as a School or large industrial premises.

Recommendation 14 - (retained/updated from 2004 Plan).

The Bollington Town Council should arrange consultation with residents and press for ongoing discussions with Highways/Traffic Engineers from the Borough and County Councils to agree solutions to the parking problems identified in the 2004 Parish Plan and the 2007 Report on Survey of Parking in Bollington.

Recommendation 15 - (retained from 2004 Plan).

All the Primary Schools in Bollington should review together School Travel Plans in accordance with the guidelines published, for example, by the charity Sustrans; see <http://www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk/> The possibility of a school and community bus service following a circular route around Bollington should be explored.

Recommendation 16 - (retained/updated from 2004 Plan).

Further efforts should be made to encourage homeowners to adopt appropriate colours, designs and materials for doors, windows, roofs and drainage pipes and gutters in Conservation Areas. There is a case for requesting the Local Authority responsible for enforcing these requirements to support consultancy advice to residents on appropriate improvements.

Recommendation 17 - (retained from 2004 Plan).

Consideration should be given to establishing the historic parts of Lowerhouse as a new conservation area, particularly Longrow.

Recommendation 18 - (retained from 2004 Plan).

Steps should be taken by the Town Council, the Borough Council and the County Council for land at Kerridge Ridge and Ingersley Vale including White Nancy to be classed as A Site of County Importance and for the summit area and access to the hilltop to be managed by a single authority. Opportunities to acquire areas with permissive paths should be pursued by the Town Council for use by the public. Examples of this include the path following the River Dean and the continuation of a path from the top of Nab Head on to Pott Shrigley.

Recommendation 19 - (retained from 2004 Plan).

A study of the canal corridor should be initiated with British Waterways to identify how the character can be enhanced. This would include repairs to features to provide a more useful linear park, which would include towpath and boat mooring improvements. It should also include provision of litter bins, dog waste bins and benches.

LEISURE

Recommendation 20 - (retained from 2004 Plan).

There is a need to increase facilities in and around the Bollington Cross area of the Town for the youth there. The plans for a sheltered meeting area and multi use games area with community nature space, and associated improvements to provision for football adjacent to the Leisure Centre are strongly supported. Improvements in youth facilities are also required at the Adlington Road and Coronation Gardens play areas.

Recommendation 21.

The Town Council should continue its efforts to increase the provision of allotments in the Town. This should include a review of all potentially suitable land in Public or Private Ownership to see if any that might become surplus to requirements could be made available for use as allotments.