

BOLLINGTON TOWN PLAN – 2008

PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION – JULY 2009

Progress with recommendations is as follows:

Recommendation 1 – Relationship with Cheshire East Council

Bollington Town Council has supported the need to ensure a close working relationship with Cheshire East Council and the concept of individual members taking a special interest in different service areas. The Council requested information as to whether the model of a Leader had been followed by any other Town/Parish Councils. The Council decided to keep a watching brief on the developing structure of Cheshire East Council and to consider this matter further when the arrangement for Local Area Partnerships has become clearer.

Recommendation 2 - Development Officer

The Town Council has resolved to support the need for a formal mechanism for pursuing development opportunities and decided to explore this initiative further in liaison with Bollington Initiative Trust. These discussions are ongoing.

Recommendation 3 - PCSO

The Town Council has resolved to accept this recommendation. Cllr. Mark Stedman chairs regular meetings with the PCSO and submits reports to the Town Council.

Recommendation 4 – Graffiti removal

The Town Council has resolved to support this recommendation and that a sum of money be set aside annually for the removal of graffiti as and when it occurs rather than entering in to a formal ‘insurance’ agreement with a contractor.

Recommendation 5 - Homewatch

The Town Council has resolved that this recommendation be supported. An inaugural meeting of the Homewatch groups in Bollington was held on 4th December 2008 and further meetings are being arranged by Cllr. Mark Stedman.

Recommendation 6 – Ecoteams

The Bollington Carbon Revolution Group report that four households completed the pilot Ecoteam programme last year, which did result in one member taking the bus in Bollington to visit the leisure centre rather than drive. One household also gave up one car for a period of time, but unfortunately has since had to purchase a second car again due to the lack of lift share opportunities to Astra Zeneca in Alderley Edge.

A further 30 households have either completed or are currently partaking in the programme this year. Analysis of changes in behaviour in travel have not yet been carried out, however there has been a lot of discussion around a number of sustainable travel ideas such as:-

- Location of ‘Gee Wizz’ electric cars at each end of Bollington would be a key factor in influencing residents to give up a second car. Investigations have started in this scheme.
- Location of bicycles along the main road through Bollington at key locations such as outside the Shrigley Road toilet block, the Bridgend Centre, the Town Hall, the Co-operative and the Cock and Pheasant. These would be free to use and based on the [successful scheme in Paris](#)
- Creation of a one way system on Flash lane to allow for pedestrians to safely walk to Prestbury station
- Creation of an access point from the Middlewood Way to Adlington Road to allow for commuters to cycle to Adlington Station.

Recommendation 9 – *Central Visitor Zone*

The Town Council has resolved to support this recommendation. The Council now has representatives on the Friends of the Rec. Group and the Destination Development Forum who will support the establishment a Central Visitor Zone. The Council has supported the project for the footbridge over the canal which is now under construction and is planning a footpath link from the Recreation Ground to the canal bridge.

Recommendation 10 – *Encourage Local Shopping and Food Production*

The Bollington Carbon Revolution (BCR) Group report that the thirty participants in this years Ecoteam programme have all focused on buying local during the second month of the programme. The Community Garden Group has formed as a sub-group of the BCR, and are currently around eight members strong. Since forming in October 2008 they have identified a 1.5 acre site adjacent to Ingersley Mill and are currently in negotiations with the land owner to lease the site. They are testing out a series of beds, and have a clear plan on what they wish to achieve in years 1, 2 and 3.

Recommendation 11- *Improve Shopping Environment*

A bid was made for NWDA regeneration funding for a possible scheme involving possible development of a small group of shops at Pool Bank car park. The scheme was included in the three bids recommended for funding but it is currently on hold due to reductions in funds available to NWDA.

Recommendation 12 – *Involvement of Businesses with the Community*

The Town Council is very cognisant of the importance of consulting local businesses on community matters. Many businesses provided support for the highly successful Bollington Festival in May and many businesses sponsor Canalside Community Radio and support Bollington Live.

Recommendation 13 – *Supplementary Planning Statement*

Bollington Town Council has decided to carry out a further review of the present Supplementary Planning Statement to see whether any changes need to be made. Discussions on this are due to take place at the Council Strategic Planning Committee..

Recommendation 14 – *Highways*

The Town Council resolved that this recommendation be supported. Proposals for limited parking restrictions to reduce congestion ‘pinch’ points on the main road through Bollington were drawn up by the Highways Group of the Town Council and the local area Highways Engineers. A Public Consultation on these parking restrictions proposals took place on 22nd January 2009, resulting in a small number of amendments. The proposed restrictions have now been the subject of statutory consultation which has been completed and they are due to be implemented later in the year. There remain a number of other parking issues still to be dealt with.

Recommendation 15 – *School Transport*

No progress has been made on this recommendation. Future arrangements for the primary Schools in Bollington have now been settled with the formation of a federation between St John’s and Pott Shrigley School. Bollington Cross, Dean Valley and St Gregory’s Schools continue as separate schools. It may be appropriate to revisit the recommendation with Cheshire East Council once the new arrangements are operational.

Recommendation 16 – *Advice on Use of Building Materials in Conservation Areas*

No progress has been made on this recommendation, pending the establishment of Cheshire East Council. The Town Council now intends to consult with the Conservation Officer for Cheshire East Council to take this matter further but accepts that it may be necessary to take account of the need for energy saving measures.

Recommendation 17 – *Establishment of Lowerhouse as a Conservation Area.*

No progress has been made on this recommendation. Now that Cheshire East Council is established, the Town Council intends to take the matter up again.

Recommendation 18 – *White Nancy*

Agreements have been made with landowners and KRIV volunteer group which will secure and improve access to White Nancy and ensure an annual painting of the monument. It is expected that the new footpath will be adopted by the Rights of Way Committee of Cheshire East Council in September.

Recommendation 19 - *Canal*

No progress has yet been made on this recommendation except for the construction of the footbridge at Clarence Mill. Now that Cheshire East Council is established, the Town Council intends to press for improvements to the towpath and the canal corridor with them and with British Waterways and the Canal Society.

Recommendation 20 – *Bollington Cross Project*

This recommendation was supported by the Town Council and Cllr. K. Edwards represents the Town Council on the Bollington Cross Project committee. Slow progress has been made on the project. A feasibility study has led to the proposal and basic design of a multi use games area (MUGA), teen shelter, additional football facilities and several public amenity areas to be developed on land adjacent to Bollington Leisure Centre. Difficulties were

encountered when it was discovered that a large electrical cable under the land would need to be moved and the cost of this was given by United Utilities as £21,000. An alternative has been identified involving the purchase of a small piece of adjacent land and discussions are in progress to follow this solution. Grants towards the project have been made by Tullis Russell, Bollington Town Council, Macclesfield Borough Council, Bollington United FC and Bollington Leisure Centre other funding will now be sought. In order to enhance funding possibilities, investigations are taking place to bring the project within the umbrella of the Charitable Trust Status of the Leisure Centre

Recommendation 21- *Allotments*

The Town Council resolved to support this recommendation. An item on allotments appears on every council meeting agenda. Two new allotments have been created at Bollington Cross. The Council intends to pursue the designation of land at Harrop Rise for allotments with the Estates Manager and relevant Cabinet Member at Cheshire East Council.

The following updates have been provided on progress with Strategic Plans for a number of Town Groups

Arts Centre

The work on repairing the roof has been completed successfully. The Centre continues to mount an extensive programme of events and played a key role in the highly successful Bollington Festival. The Management Committee is continuing to operate its business and development plan.

Bridgend Centre

The Centre continues to follow and develop its vision, purpose and mission as set out in section A3.2 of the Town Plan. The Charity shop has been revamped and expanded. The final Nostalgia Trail has been completed and regular leisure walks are organised. The car wash is organised on alternate weeks at the Recreation Ground. Continued links are being maintained with Canalside Community Radio. The Centre is actively involved in preparing displays for the Annual Well Dressing ceremony. The Centre continues to be a welcoming place for regulars, visitors and anyone seeking company or information.

Civic Society

The Civic Society has been heavily involved with framing community responses for the two major planning applications that have been submitted in the last two years. These are the plan for the major restoration and development, including 65 dwellings, at Ingersley Mill and the application for 14 dwellings at Red Lion Brow. Both these applications were very controversial. In both cases the Civic Society played a leading role in organising public meetings which allowed the expression of local concerns and put forward major documents to the planning authority. Much time has been devoted to the preparation of a case opposing the Red Lion Brow second application which will be the subject of a Public Inquiry in the near future.

The Civic Society has played a major role in co-ordinating the bids which have led to the ongoing construction of the Canal bridge. We successfully applied for a grant of £50,000 from WREN towards this project and will be a major player in overseeing its future management. The Society is currently engaged in organising the launch event and the

publicity for it. It has worked closely and co-operatively with the local government bodies involved with the project and sees it as supporting the Tourism initiative led by Alice Ferguson of Visit Chester and Cheshire.

Membership has continued to grow although it has not yet met the target of 100 members. The Society has just completed a successful season of speakers at our evening meetings. This year it has also launched a new programme of visits to places with heritage interests and a group of members has recently visited the Shetland Islands as part of this Programme.

Bollington Carbon Revolution Group

Part of the work of the BCR is described above in progress with recommendations 6 and 10. The Group continues to meet regularly and pursue the activities listed in Section A3.5 of the Town Plan. It continues to explore the feasibility of a demonstration project on mini hydro power and to administer the tree planting scheme in collaboration with KRIV.

Bollington Initiative Trust

Tinker's Clough Wood has had a management plan prepared and costed and finance has been raised for substantial woodland management work. That work will commence this summer and will be in two phases. The first requirement is to sort out the drainage.

The Trust on behalf of the Ingersley Centre Partnership has been granted £90,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and consultants are now helping prepare a stage 2 HLF bid for possibly £1.5million to convert buildings and a walled garden to a heritage skills training centre and a Field Studies centre for schools.

Water Street School (the Water Street Centre) is now being managed by the Trust and we have a new management agreement with the Cheshire East Council. We are still negotiating over the transfer of the building to the Trust and then we will prepare plans for the improvements of the building – working with the two tenants – the Heyday play group and the Air Cadets.

The Shrigley Road Toilet block is leased for 99 years by the Trust, but obtaining capital to convert it has proved difficult. We have obtained planning permission to convert the building and the latest plans are to work with the Carbon Revolution Group of the Civic Society to raise capital grants and convert the building into an energy saving demonstration and advice centre.

The Lowther Street school deal has fallen through, although the Trust did obtain planning permission for the conversion of the building to office use and has introduced Harvey Scott to the Crown Estates for them to purchase and convert the building.

The Town Hall/Civic Hall project was halted by the Macclesfield BC and we await progress from the new Cheshire East Council.

The Trust no longer has a part-time development officer and we are hoping that some future development funding will be forthcoming from a combination of Bollington Town and Cheshire East Councils. Signs are to be designed and erected at the toilet block, the Water Street Centre and at Tinker's Clough wood to indicate that these are BIT projects.

The Town Council/ Cheshire East must help decide whether they wish the Trust to take on the management of key open spaces in the town, such as the White Nancy area and Swinerood Wood. The Trust could also play a part in the redevelopment of the Recreation Ground Pavilion or a new pavilion that is being discussed.

Bollington Community Centre

The Community Centre has been successful in obtaining a grant from WREN for essential maintenance to the weather envelope of the building and upgrading of the first floor to bring it back into use. Additional support for the project is also being provided by Cheshire East Council and Bollington Town Council. Work started in the first week of July and will be completed early in August.

Use of the Centre by the Community has increased with the operation of the Open House Club on Thursday lunchtimes as well as the Luncheon Club on Wednesdays. A very successful concert was held by Macclesfield Male Voice Choir at the Methodist Church in January in aid of fundraising. Other fund raising events are being organised successfully on a regular basis by the fund raising group. The Centre continues to be used regularly by local groups and societies and for hire for parties, coffee mornings and other events.

Friends of the Recreation Ground

The Friends of the Rec have been actively involved in supporting the application for renewal of Green Flag status this year. The inspection took place on June 4th and at the time of this report the results are still awaited. Meetings of the Friends take place on the third Thursday of every month. The Friends have a programme of activities aimed at promoting the use of the Rec and they carry out regular inspections of the facilities to assist Cheshire East Council in identifying needs for specific maintenance actions additional to those carried out by the two permanent groundsmen.

The Friends are in active discussion to assist in the development of the central leisure zone, including improvements to the Adlington Road play area to include an updated skate park facility and the provision of a footpath link from the Rec to the canal.

Bollington Festival

The Festival took place during a three week period in May and was a huge success. There were over 12,000 attendees at events. The operational and administrative aspects of the organisation were excellent with only minor occasional snags. The general area of the Rec. covered by the marquee, tracking, Portacabins etc during the Festival was now recovering well. The Festival organisers are to be congratulated for the care taken in their arrangements to ensure minimal effect on the Rec and on the tremendous success of the whole event.

Bollington Leisure Centre

The activities set out in section A3.9 of the Plan continue to make progress and remain valid. The building developments have not yet started. The Leisure Centre is taking the lead in the proposed development of youth facilities at Bollington Cross.

Town Council Response

The Town Council Strategic Planning Committee has considered and accepted the overall content of this Report at its meeting on 13th July 2009. It makes the following comments on the Group Strategic Progress Reports:

- (i) The Town Council welcomes the contributions and plans by the many organisations in the Town to the successful welfare of the Community.
- (ii) Further to the Civic Society Report, it is understood that the Public Enquiry into the planning application on the Red Lion Brow site will take place on 18th August and the parties will be represented by barristers.
- (iii) Further to the BIT Report the Town Council welcomes the developments on Tinker's Clough, the Ingersley Centre, the KRIV project, Water Street School and the toilet block and looks forward to seeing the completion of successful implementation of these projects. The Town Council awaits further discussions with Cheshire East Council on the Town Hall/Civic Hall project. The Town Council intends to continue discussions with BIT on requirements for management of other development projects in the town.
- (iv) The Town Council wishes to express its thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in preparations for the Green Flag inspections at the Recreation Ground.
- (v) The Town Council wishes to express its strong support for the work of the numerous volunteers engaged in promoting the youth projects in the Town.

Report prepared by Michael Burdekin

13th July 2009