

Aughton

Parish Plan 2010



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The Steering Group would like to thank Irene Roberts (Parish Clerk) for her help in supporting the development of this report and Martin Trengove at West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service for expert guidance and advice.

Dear Resident

Thank you for taking the time to complete the 1042 Parish Plan questionnaires we had returned, a 32% response rate which was excellent. Thanks also for attending the Community Exhibition and Visioning Event, and for contributing to this Plan on your views about living in Aughton. This Plan will be used to enable Aughton Parish Council to sustain Aughton as an attractive, vibrant and successful community.

As our volunteer steering group sifted through the results of the questionnaire and other consultations, it became aware of the way in which history had shaped and developed the Parish of Aughton.

As the first piece of high land in from the coast, we became aware that Saxon and Celtic tribes must have used it to view the whole coast line from the Fylde to Wales, and that Saxons, Celts, Romans, Vikings, Normans, Roundheads and Royalists gazed out over a dramatically changing landscape over the last two millennia. They would have seen the tidal meadows and forest turn into rich arable farming land and other changes as modern rural and urban Aughton developed.

We became aware too, that those of us who live in Aughton today inherited the legacy of those that settled, lived in, formed or passed over these lands, and that our stewardship will shape its future for the generations to come.

During the Parish Planning process, you gave us this vision for Aughton.....

“To sustain Aughton as a welcoming place with a good quality of life for all residents”

You told us that you liked living here, that you enjoyed the good environment and facilities in Aughton, and the quality of life on offer.

You told us through the questionnaires you completed that you did have concerns about the environment, the countryside, road safety, access to services, health and well being, and community safety. In addition, both older people and young people raised other issues of specific concern to them that are also identified in this Plan.

The purpose of this Parish Plan is to give you feedback on the results and outcomes of our work and invite you to help shape the future of Aughton by working with the Parish Council over the coming years to develop and help achieve the ideas identified in this Plan.

We would ask you to consider what we have concluded and then volunteer to help the Parish Council to fulfil your vision for Aughton.

Barrie Moreton (Chairman)

Aughton Parish Plan Steering Group

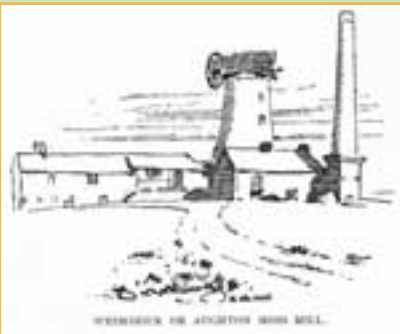
A History of Aughton

The history of Aughton can be traced back as far as the Vikings who, driven out of earlier settlements in Ireland, crossed the sea and arrived in the coastal areas of southwest Lancashire around 900 AD. The land was then a wilderness of woods, the most prominent tree being oak, covering the land between the Mersey and the Ribble. But by the year of the Domesday Survey of 1086 a Saxon Thane named Uctred, not a Viking, held "Acketun", the first mention of what has become our Parish of Aughton. The name probably meant homestead (tun) of the oaks (acke).



Turnpike Road

The Roman roads from Chester to Lancaster, and Wigan to the coast may have passed through what is now the village but the later turnpike road (there is just one short section still bearing its name) linked Liverpool and Ormskirk and north to Wigan and Preston.



Aughton is on a ridge, the southern slope of one of the remnants of the sandstone plateau, the fields are boulder clay, very fertile and now classified as Grade 1 Agricultural land. It was the first raised ground

overlooking the vast estuary lands of the Mersey and was thus a vantage point and the site of at least two windmills, one on Mill Lane and the other on what is now Colinmander Gardens – the Whimbrick Mill. It is believed that the site of Christ Church was used as a beacon point.

By 1235 there were three holders of the manor of Acketun, all brothers and Welshmen. By 1300 the spelling had changed to Aghton; Richard le Waleys held the Manor until 1329 and a dispute was recorded in 1374 between Nicholas and Baldwin de Aghton (of Aughton). The De Bradshawes held the manor until 1551 then Peter Stanley took over by marriage. By 1600 the spelling had changed again to the name we know today.

The Parish Church of St Michael existed in Norman times; the only feature now remaining is a small rounded arch on the south wall partly hidden by a buttress, believed to date from the 12th century, with the original church built of stone in the 16th Century. The registers are very old, containing entries from 1541 and one of the first entries is a May marriage between Edward Hale and Elyn Atherton



Aughton Old Hall

Aughton Old Hall was the ancient seat of the de Aghtons, built around 1400 (the present building replaced the original); Moor Hall on Prescott Road was completed in 1566, Island House, Parris Lane in 1663; The Stanley Arms was an inn on the turnpike around 250 years ago although it is believed to be on a more ancient foundation.



Moor Hall

In the mid 17th Century as the Civil War raged around the county, Aughton had its own battle at Aughton Moss or the Trench Field (Prescot Road near the Ormskirk boundary). It happened like this:-after the battle of Marston Moor (2nd July 1644) with the Parliamentarians victorious, around 4000 of their troops began the siege of Lathom House. Their Headquarters was around Ormskirk, a Royalist stronghold. Many camped on the Trench Field and on 20th August a “great conflict” arose and the Royalists were soundly defeated.

Old records give us some idea of the activities that took place centuries ago. The accounts in “The Annals of Aughton” show that the price of a fox (dead) in 1665 was one shilling but by 1738 the price had risen to 2/6d. In 1787 an umbrella was purchased for the Minister at the princely sum of 14/-, an amazing purchase for such a small rural community, as umbrellas had not long become available. Contrast this with fees paid to the Singing Master for three weeks teaching – for which he received just £1.2s.6d. (For those born after decimalisation, there were 20 shillings (s.) to the pound, 12 pence (d.) to the shilling and 2/6d was half a crown with eight half crowns to each pound.)

The Constables Accounts (Aughton had its own Constable prior to the establishment of the County Police Force in 1842) date from 1730 when the then Lords of the Manor, R Molyneaux and John Plumbe, nominated the first Constable for Aughton. Snippets from the accounts reveal that in 1740 the Ducking Stool was repaired by George Blundell at a cost of 1s.0d. and in 1768 a new finger post was erected at the “end of the town”, price £1.6s.1d.

Education came to Aughton in 1701 when a school was built on Glebe land near to St Michael Church: this was replaced in 1835 by the school at Holt Green when the land cost £50 and two cottages were demolished to make way for the building, the compensation for each householder being two guineas. In the census of 1811 there were 198 families in Aughton, of whom 116 were employed in agriculture. St Mary’s Roman Catholic Chapel opened in 1823 and by 1831 the population had grown to 1462 with 424 working in agriculture, 6 blacksmiths, 5 publicans, hatters, millers, a rope maker, tailor, shoemaker, wheelwright, weaver, flax dresser and one pedlar. Pressure grew for a second Church of England to be built and Christ Church, designed in the Gothic style, was consecrated in 1877: at 500 feet above sea level it became a prominent landmark. Long Lane Baptist Mission was built with a schoolroom in 1872 and Christ Church School opened in 1874 with 50 girls and 50 infants.

Aughton had its own Race Course, with the start at The Stand House (we have Stand House Lane still), running in a figure of eight covering land where Granville Park and Swanpool Lane are today and coming around Sweep Alley (Long Lane). In 1705 Mr Darcy’s “Cricket” beat the famous London “Dimple” and in 1799 a man was killed at the Races and the Constables paid 2s.6d. for fetching the coroner. The last race was held in 1815 when the land was reallocated under The Enclosure Act.



The first horse drawn coach passed through in 1774 but Aughton began to grow steadily with the building of the railway, opened on Good Friday in 1849 and linking eventually to Southport, Blackpool, the Lake District and beyond. People with

wealth and aspiration to be out of the city of Liverpool came to live in Aughton: Granville Park was part built but was not completed to the plans as another roadway near to Aughton Lawn Tennis Club was shown.

The Aughton Women's Institute was founded in 1925 with subscriptions at just two shillings and a waiting list. The Hut in Town Green Lane was built in 1929 at a cost of £600. The WI was so popular that Aughton Moss and Town Green followed soon after.

Aughton had its own pumping station on Springfield Road where water was pumped from the artesian wells to serve the growing population. Until recently it also had its own sewage works, situated at the junction of Swan Lane and Back Lane. The purified liquid sewage was so pure it could be pumped into the Sudell Brook without danger to plant or pond life!



Holt Green Coronation Memorial

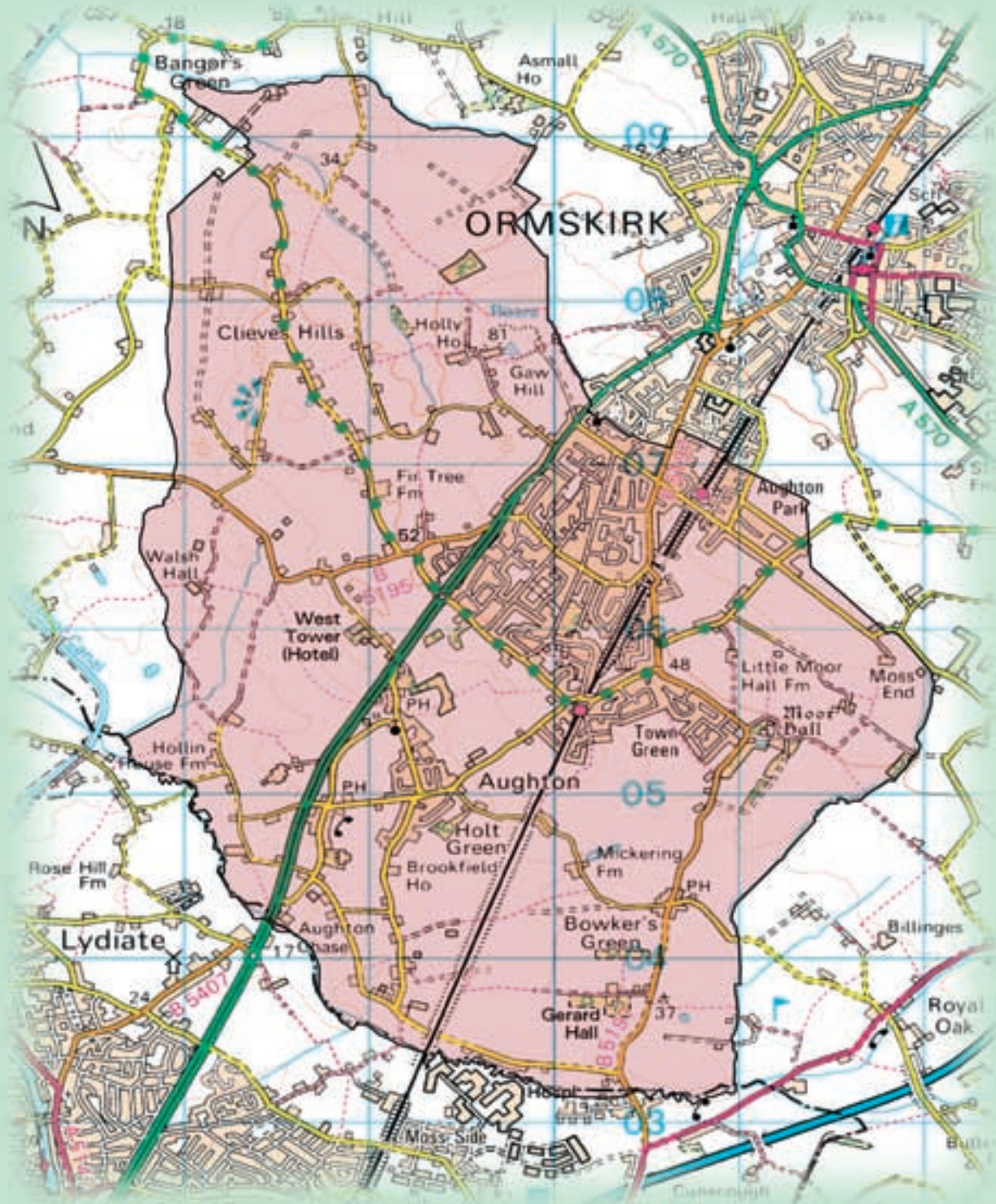
Early dwellers lived in small settlements for safety and protection and the "greens" of Aughton are the last remnants of their existence. Toungrene was mentioned in the mid 13th century and had become Town Green by 1786. The cross at Holt Green was broken off in Cromwell's time and the original base is in St Michael's churchyard (the cross now standing at Holt Green is a Coronation Memorial to George V and Queen Mary). Bowkers and Brookfield Greens are remembered only by the names of the lanes nearby, Hollin House Green by the name of the farm but Cod Piece Green (Parrs Lane / Prescott Road) is now forgotten.

The population in 1801 was recorded as 987 persons but by 1951 the Parish had grown to 3566 and is now nearing 9000. The A59 trunk road was constructed just before the 2nd World War and in the late 50's and early 60's Aughton began to grow. The Cherry Tree and Delph Park estates, the Serpentine and Sefton Gardens, development around Christ Church, Town Green and Holt Green increased the population greatly and put pressure on education, social, transport and police services. In 1974 the West Lancashire Rural District Council and Ormskirk Urban District Council amalgamated with Burscough and Skelmersdale to form West Lancashire District Council; Town Green County Primary School was built, St Michael's Parochial School was moved to a new site in Delph Park Avenue and Christ Church C of E School was re-sited further down Long Lane.



Playing Fields at Winifred Lane

The William Arnold Silcock Memorial Playing Fields at Winifred Lane were given "for the enjoyment of the people of Aughton". The Parish Council rose to the challenge of a growing, younger population and invested in playgrounds, playing fields, and public open spaces such as Redsands and Delph Quarry. The Village Hall was built after substantial fund raising efforts and was opened in 1971. During the eighties the playing fields at Winifred Lane were developed with the bowling green, tennis courts and sports pavilion: extensive drainage works allowed more football to be played and a cricket square was laid. Clubs were formed to cater for the increased sporting activities and the facilities have twice been awarded the title of "Best Kept Playing Field" in Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competition. But we have lost the village branch of NatWest; shops have changed to suit modern tastes and public houses have become places to eat not just to drink. And now the Parish has its own Constable back in Aughton. The wheel is turning full circle!



Aughton Today

The parish of Aughton – pronounced Orton – covers some 4104 acres, and lies just south of the market town of Ormskirk. The Parish is made up of a large residential area and which provides over 3400 homes housing some 8,500 people. The majority remaining land area is essentially rural containing a number of small settlements and is almost exclusively used for agricultural purposes.



Rural Aughton

The busy A59 runs to the west of the main residential part of the village and is a main arterial route from the north into the city of Liverpool which lies some 12 miles to the south. There is also easy access to the M58 motorway to the east which connects with the M6 motorway, and the A570 linking Ormskirk with the seaside resort of Southport to the west. Much of the land outside the residential area is classed as Grade I agricultural land and, as part of the West Lancashire agricultural belt, is recognised as some of the most productive land in the country.



Granville Park Residential Area

Since the 1960's, when a number of large housing developments were undertaken, the village of Aughton has evolved into a dormitory for people whose employment is mainly in the neighbouring towns and cities of Ormskirk, Southport and Liverpool and much further afield.

Public transport links include the two railway stations at Aughton Park and Town Green on the commuter line running from Ormskirk and Liverpool and the Parish is reasonably well served by bus, although the rural areas are not well accommodated in this regard. The station at Town Green is also the site for Aughton police station which is manned most days of the week by volunteers.

From Clieves Hills and Gaw Hill there are fine views over Downholland and the Formby plain. The Welsh coast and Snowdonia to the south west round to Blackpool and the Fylde to the north are visible most days. Within the Parish, Christ Church tower stands out as a very prominent landmark from its elevated position on Holborn Hill. Gorse Hill Nature Reserve [on Gaw Hill] is a new amenity, and there are many fine footpaths for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Primary health care is provided by one GP practice with a number of GP's, a practice nurse and chiropodist. In addition there is one dental practice and one pharmacy. Access to Ormskirk hospital is good but the recent move of Adult A&E and acute services to Southport is, even on a good day, some 40 minutes drive away by car and a difficult place to reach by public transport.



The Town Green Pub

Aughton enjoys six pubs, five of which provide food/dining facilities. There is also one restaurant and one hotel with function rooms. There are several local shops including newsagents/general stores, butchers, fruit and vegetables, florist, dry-cleaners, off-licence, hot-food takeaway, hairdressers, antiques, prams/baby needs and a post office.



Moss Delph Lane Shops

A war memorial is located in Granville Park and King George V Coronation Memorial is situated at the road junction in Holt Green at the southern end of the Parish. Aughton has a larger than usual number of historic buildings, the most prominent being St Michaels Parish Church and its almshouses. In private ownership are Aughton Old Hall [15th Century], Aughton New Hall [1610], Moor Hall and Walsh Hall. Although a number of fine examples of Victorian and early 20th century houses remain, there is an increasing tendency to replace them with modern dwellings.

There are three county primary schools and one fee-paying school in Aughton. Pre-school and nursery education can be obtained from various establishments in the Parish.



St. Michael's Church

Aughton has a wide range of services, amenities & leisure facilities, a village hall, a sports pavilion, shops, various sports and social clubs and other groups and organisations which serve to maintain an active and friendly community life. Details of most of the activities available are given in the chapter of this report dealing with community amenities.

Aughton has an elected Parish Council which meets monthly. Details of meetings and agendas are widely published and members of the public are encouraged to attend. The Parish is represented at the District Council by five district Councillors and on the County Council by one County Councillor.



Aughton Baptist Church

The spiritual needs of the Parish are met through the services of a number of local churches including St Michael's and Christ Church which are Church of England and a Roman Catholic Church at St Mary's and a Baptist Church at Aughton Park. All these places have facilities for meeting of church members.



Christ Church



St. Mary's Church

The consultation process undertaken during the process of preparing the Parish plan has highlighted a number of issues that can be addressed by the parishioners and the Parish Council to enable the Parish of Aughton to develop and thrive in changing times, maintaining and improving the benefits of living in an attractive and peaceful community.

Environment, Conservation and Development

Your views:-

- You see Aughton as a large rural Parish with declining numbers of bird population (31%), some loss of natural habitat (23%) and wild flowers (21%)
- You use the extensive footpath network in the parish and value ready access to surrounding countryside (72%)
- You are conscious of climate change and make a real effort to recycle waste and reduce the consumption of fossil fuels through greater use of insulation and double glazing
- You wish to see development lead to affordable housing which is not prejudicial to the character of Aughton
- You see high numbers (65%) of houses in the Parish with two or less residents

Your vision:-

- To have greater respect for the environment to ensure Aughton has the best environment in the County

Your issues:-

- Better maintained footpaths to ensure continued access to local countryside
- More environmentally friendly rural management practices to reduce the perceived loss of wildflowers, natural habitats and wildlife
- Need to reduce further fossil fuel consumption and increase home insulation
- Concerns about affordability of housing for young people and developments that are prejudicial to the character of Aughton

Proposed Actions:-

Short term

- Improve Street Cleanliness and Maintenance
- Tackle litter and dog fouling
- Promote greater use of footpaths with clearer signage, including information on destination



Medium term

- Protect Open Spaces and Green Belt
- Increase Recycling and Energy Conservation

Longer term

- Contribute to the development of West Lancashire's Borough Council's and Lancashire County Council's Community Strategy and Local Development Framework



Transport, Traffic and Road Safety

Your views:-

- You have high levels of car ownership (90%) and as a result you have good access to surrounding areas for employment, business, education, training and services, with road access via the A59 and M58
- You recognise good access to the rail network though usage seems low (4%)
- You use local bus services but usage (5%) is much lower than other methods, and you call for greater coverage and frequency of service
- You told us that speeding traffic (38%) and traffic noise (15%) were issues that concerned you

Your vision:-

- To have clean, safe, well maintained roads and pavements with appropriate traffic calming measures which encourage safe, responsible drivers

Your issues:-

- Increase usage and coverage of public transport in rural areas
- Need a direct rail link to Southport
- Speeding traffic, and traffic calming, including speeding traffic road signs and speed limits painted onto roads
- Parking on pavements in residential areas
- Improve maintenance of roads
- Congestion at key points in rush hour and school ingress and egress times.
- Build cycle lanes to segregate slower moving traffic and create more cycle paths

Proposed actions:-

Short term

- Provide more information on existing public transport to encourage greater usage

Medium term

- Tackle school congestion run
- Tackle problems caused by speeding motorists

Longer term

- Create more Cycle Lanes/Footways
- Promote Alternative Transport solutions to the car
- Reinststate the Burscough Curves to reintroduce a direct rail service to Southport



Crime and Safety

Your views:-

- You told us that, by and large, Aughton felt safe when walking after dark (65%) with (90%) reporting that they had not been the victim of crime over the previous twelve months
- You reported a range of crimes involving theft from cars (4%) and burglary (4%)
- You reported being concerned about being mugged (46%) and burgled (62%) even though serious crime levels in Aughton are low
- You commented on the need to combat groups of young people from Aughton or elsewhere wandering round the Parish in large numbers
- You recognised the value of the current arrangements already in place in Aughton, ie the Community Beat Manager, Community Support Officer, the Police and Communities Together Forum, Community Volunteers manning the Police Station and the 40 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Aughton

Proposed actions:-

- Combat problems caused by large groups of young people congregating in public areas
- Maintain volunteer activity in Aughton Police Station

Your vision:-

- Aughton should become an even safer place to live and work and in time become a 'crime free' Parish

Your issues:-

- Maintain or increase current levels of policing in Aughton
- Raise Awareness of Neighbourhood Watch and the Police and Communities Together Forum (PACT)
- More information on Crime Prevention
- Better liaison with young people to understand their needs
- Address anti social behaviour, drink and drugs



Health, Well-being and Health Care

Your views:-

- You told us that high numbers (88%) of you consider that your health is above average or better
- You told us that the majority consider that access to health services is adequate:- doctors surgery (80%), pharmacy (75%) and dentist (60%)
- You told us that most took regular exercise of 20 minutes or more, at least three times a week (70%)
- You told us that only 29% thought that there was adequate access to sheltered or wardened housing, and only 18% thought that the assistance available when caring for others was adequate
- You told us that Aughton residents are, by and large, healthy and pursue healthy lifestyles

Your vision:-

- Health Services available to all members of the community of Aughton



Your issues:-

- Need to be aware of the social, physical and mental wellbeing of people living alone, particularly the elderly and those who are housebound
- There is general satisfaction with access to health services available to people in Aughton, but concerns that people without cars can experience problems in accessing services through public transport

Proposed actions:-

Short term

- Raise awareness and usage of specialist services, for example chiropody
- Promote social events for older residents

Medium term

- Improve public transport links to hospitals



Community Amenities and Voluntary Services

Your views:-

- You recognised that Aughton is well served by local amenities
- You told us that Aughton has a rich range of local community and voluntary groups using these amenities
- You reported that you would still like to see facilities extended to increase the range and choice of provision in Aughton
- You supported a more cohesive community, engaging younger and older residents alike

Your vision:-

- Aughton to provide a welcoming community atmosphere which involves all ages and promotes and supports a good quality of life for residents

Proposed actions:-

Short term

- Publish a list of voluntary and community groups, a Who's Who
- Set up a Community Website

Medium term

- Launch a Community Newsletter
- Develop recreational facilities in the north of the Parish
- Improve access to Post Office Services

Your issues:-

- Better access is needed to information about local facilities and activities to encourage more residents to get involved and contribute
- Decide which areas need more amenities and consider developing more facilities in the north of the Parish
- Value in forming local action groups to further develop volunteering and community activity to support the implementation of the Parish plan



Aughton Village Hall



Aughton Institute

Education, Employment and Business

Your views:-

- You told us that you recognised that there are good quality local primary schools and good access to further and higher education
- You told us that you were interested in accessing further education / training courses to improve employment prospects (18%), and for leisure pastimes (78%)
- You told us that unemployment levels were low, less than 1.5% which is well below the rural average for Lancashire (5.4%)
- Some residents were interested in starting their own business with IT, Health Care, Retail, Catering and Tourism being the most popular fields of activity

Proposed actions:-

Short term

- Improve access to relevant information on childcare, transport, enterprise, etc

Your issues:

- No real concerns about access to primary, further and higher education
- Reasons given by adults preventing them from taking up courses include: cost, childcare, course times, lack of information
- Barriers to gaining employment included low confidence, lack of child care and transport
- Barriers to setting up in business could include a lack of knowledge or access to business advice



Christ Church CE Primary School



Mt Carmel RC Primary School



St Michaels CE Primary School



Town Green Primary School

Younger Residents

Our young people's views:-

- Aughton has many organisations for young people. These include uniformed organisations attached to the churches and non-uniformed clubs and organisations
- The work done by all the youth workers is seen as a real asset to the Parish
- A wide range of sporting activities are available for local youth, including cricket, football, tennis, etc
- Aughton is seen by young people as being two distinct communities, i.e. the area around Town Green and the area around Christ Church

Our young people's issues:

- Availability of reasonably priced public transport especially in the evening
- Lack of cycle paths around the Parish
- Need for an unsupervised meeting place
- Need for a fenced off area for sports, eg. basketball, netball, football (*not for organised teams*)
- Need for additional support for arts/media activities
- Need for a Youth Council
- Need for a website for young people to use to get information on what's on in Aughton



Proposed actions:-

Short term

- Set up a web-site

Medium term

- Provide additional sports facilities and an arts/media club and meeting place
- Recycling at Sports Pavilion

Longer term

- Cycle paths and cheap travel

At the Sports Pavilion

- Recycling at Sports Pavilion
- Cricket
- Five-A-Side football
- Tennis

based on the results of the Youth Questionnaire (155 returns)

Older Adults

Your views:-

- Many of you are already members of social clubs (42%) and others would like to see clubs specifically for older people; one in four were keen to join a luncheon club
- The majority are interested in lifelong learning (61%)
- Almost all are interested in a healthy and active lifestyle (96%)
- Three in four are interested in volunteering work in support of community safety, environmental projects, community gardens or work with young people

Your issues:

- Concern about availability of public transport links to hospitals
- Concern about access to specialist health services (eg dentistry and chiropody)
- Concern about access to post office services



Proposed actions:

Short term

- Promote social events for older adults (accessible and suitably resourced) to encourage healthy and active lifestyles
- Recruit volunteers to the voluntary and community organisations to stimulate and support the growth of volunteers and organisations

Medium term

- Improve public transport links to hospitals
- Improve access to post office services
- Improve access to specialist health services
- Take account of the ageing population profile in the Parish and the increased pressure on social, health and welfare services over the next ten years

based on the results of the 'Over 65's Questionnaire' compiled and analysed by Age Concern' and completed by those retired and those approaching retirement (652 returns)



Action Plan

This Parish Plan is a vision of how the residents of Aughton would like their Parish to be. It is a live document reflecting the values and priorities of the Parish and which suggests ways of tackling any problems in the short, medium or long term.

Aughton residents are encouraged to join the various Action Groups being set up as a result of this Parish Plan to try and progress the issues identified in the Parish Plan (see Return Slip). It should be possible for these groups to make applications for grants to fund specific projects and services as well as lobbying those in the statutory sector for improvements and action where required.

The Parish Council is not able, without the support of the residents of Aughton, to work alone to try to deliver the solutions identified in this Plan. The Parish Council would like to thank all those residents who have contributed to the process and especially the Steering Group who have worked hard and long to bring this piece of work to a conclusion. The Parish Council decided rightly not to carry out the process itself but hand it over to the 'community' to undertake independently thereby increasing the validity of the Plan as a true 'bottom up' reflection of the views of the residents of Aughton. The Parish Council, in approving the Parish Plan, has shown its support and willingness to work with the various Action Groups to try and make improvements in the Parish for the benefit of Aughton residents.

If you would like to get involved and help deliver the solutions identified in this Plan, please contact the Parish Clerk

Telephone: **01695 424113**

e-mail: **aughtonparishco@btconnect.com**

or complete the Return Slip.

The Clerk will then put you in touch with the contacts for the various action groups detailed below:

- Environment, Conservation and Development
 - Transport, Traffic and Road Safety
 - Crime & Safety
 - Health, Well-being and Health Care
- Community Amenities and Voluntary Services
 - Education, Employment and Business
 - Younger Residents
 - Older Adults



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AUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL



Council for Voluntary Service
West Lancashire



**COMMUNITY
FUND**

Lottery money making a difference



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