

AUGHTON PARISH PLAN 2010 – PERIODIC REVIEW (4 yearly)

Environment, Conservation and Development

- In some areas, litter and in particular, dog fouling, continue to be problematical despite recent efforts by the Dog Warden to identify offenders.
- Public footpaths continue to be well-used by dog walkers, rambling groups and local residents. Generally, footpaths are well-maintained and several have had new stiles, gates and fences fitted. Currently, the walking leaflets based on Aughton footpaths (produced by the Parish Council several years ago) are being updated and expanded to include neighbouring parishes' footpaths.
- Aughton residents continue to be engaged with environmental concerns such as protection of the green belt, natural habitat, birds, wildlife, trees and wild flowers. The environment continues to face challenges over specific areas which impact on infrastructure, local schools, health services, the size and character of Aughton and governmental policy regarding renewable energies.
- Street bins and household rubbish and recycling bins are collected efficiently to an adequate schedule. A wheelie bin for household plastic and glass recycling has recently been introduced by the West Lancashire Borough Council to improve recycling.
- Future housing developments within the borough will be guided by the plans and policies within the adopted West Lancashire Local Plan 2012-2027.

Transport, Traffic and Road Safety

- Only minor changes in bus routes and timetables have been introduced since 2010. More commuters are using the Ormskirk – Liverpool Merseyrail service and limited free parking is provided at Town Green station.
- Parking around Town Green primary school has been further restricted and 'Walk to School Days' encouraging parents to drop off their children to walk to school have been accommodated by a short-stay system at Winifred Lane car park.
- Parking bays outside the Town Green shops together with the short-stay system in Winifred Lane car park are helping to alleviate problems with traffic congestion and road safety.
- Since 2010, several road safety/anti-speeding measures have been introduced including "Check your speed" screens on several roads. New pedestrian crossings have been introduced at several sites.
- Programmed road maintenance continues.

- Increased use of public transport, cycling and walking and road safety remain short and medium term priorities and further cycle lanes remain a long term goal. Aughton Community Together (ACT) are planning free cycling proficiency lessons provided by Go Velo.
- Talks about re-instating the Southport-Ormskirk direct rail link are ongoing.

Crime and Safety

- Crime rates in Aughton remain low in all categories with very little crime against the person.
- Aughton is now policed as part of Southern Parishes with one Community Beat Manager and two Police Community Support Officers. The Aughton police point, manned by volunteers, has been retained as a Neighbourhood Policing Base. This is a valuable asset with 50% of original volunteers still in post. New volunteers have been recruited over the past 11 years but there is a need for more, to expand current opening hours.
- Monthly PACT (Police & Community Together) meetings are held there to discuss local policing issues and address matters raised by the public.

Health, Well-being and Health Care

- Aughton continues to have one medical practice, one dental practice and one pharmacy. The Aughton Surgery welcomes requests for registration from Aughton and surrounding areas. The medical team includes three doctors and one nurse practitioner. Since 2010, Aughton Surgery has developed an up-to-date, user-friendly website with secure patient access for changing personal details, ordering repeat prescriptions and viewing medical record details; and introduced an improved appointment booking system including online GP booking and appointments up to two weeks in advance. Specialist weekly clinics include Immunisation, Counselling, Dietician, Midwife, Private Podiatry and Private Osteopath. Home visits are available for people who are physically unable to attend the surgery and out of hours emergency medical cover is provided by OWLS, a local GP cooperative. The regular Phlebotomy sessions and prescription pick-up and delivery service are designed to prevent unnecessary visits to the hospital and pharmacy, respectively.
- The dental practice has two dentists and one hygienist. It has a limited number of NHS places and offer domiciliary visits as part of the NHS service. The majority of patients are treated under regular payment schemes or opt for private treatment on a 'pay as you go' basis.
- Improved public transport links to hospitals, especially Southport, and co-ordination of bus timetables with hospital visiting hours remain desirable goals.

Community Amenities and Voluntary Services

- Aughton Community Together (ACT) has set up a website with information and links to local community groups and voluntary organisations, local news items, activities and social events: <http://www.aughtoncommunity.btck.co.uk/>. ACT organise regular walks which start from the Village Hall and other social events.
- Community amenities including the playing fields and play areas continue to be well maintained.
- The Sub-Post Office on Holborn Hill remains open.

Education, Employment and Business

- All three primary schools continue to thrive under dedicated, inspiring staff and they are a valuable asset to Aughton. All three schools were graded Outstanding in the latest OFSTED reports. All offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities and invite families and the Aughton community to join their special social and fund-raising events. Recently, year 5 pupils at St Michael's School have been awarded £15000 by the Arts Council to create a 'Conversational Place', an art-themed community garden on unused land by Town Green Station. The pupils will work with professional artists and local community groups to provide and maintain the garden which should have a significant positive impact to the area around Town Green Station.
- Aughton has one of the lowest proportions of Job Seekers' Allowance claimants in West Lancashire, with just 1.5% claiming whilst Ormskirk has an average rate of 2.1%.
- Most local businesses are busy and successful, attracting shoppers from neighbouring parishes. The Town Green Inn, one of Aughton's six public houses closed in Spring 2014. The others work hard to attract business with regular quizzes, live music and good quality meals.

Younger Residents

- The uniformed clubs and Youth Ministries at both churches continue to thrive. Uniformed groups include Rainbows, Brownies and Guides; and Beaver, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. The Youth Ministry at Christ Church includes Re:vive (the Sunday morning youth congregation); Drop Zone (Tuesdays); the Thursday evenings Re:fuel, Re:ability and Re:ality, the latter being an open youth club; and Sunday evening MAD Group for year 11 young people. St Michael's has recently expanded its Youth Ministry with the weekly Sunday Youth Club.
- The playing fields, sports facilities and play areas remain popular with local residents and sports clubs

Older Adults' Views

- There are a number of organisations catering for the social and recreational needs of Older Adults and these offer an increasingly wide range of activities, both sedentary and sporting.
- Currently, there are six residential care / nursing homes in Aughton with two providing dementia care. Most of the six homes have undergone expansion / building work recently and several welcome non-residents and Aughton residents to join in social events and dining clubs.
- Both Medical and Dental practices are fully accessible with adequate car parking, close to public transport, and can provide domiciliary visits.

This update is to be read in conjunction with the Aughton Parish Plan 2010, copies of which were originally delivered to every household. The on-line version of the Parish Plan can be viewed on the following websites:

www.aughtoncommunitytogether.co.uk

www.aughtonparishcouncil.co.uk

16.9.14

4.11.14

1.3.15