



## **Astley Village Parish Council**

### **Annual Report 2024/2025**

#### **Re-elected as Chair**

I was honoured to be re-elected as Chair of Astley Village Parish Council at the council meeting which took place on Wednesday 1 May 2024. As Chair for nearly two years, I have enjoyed working collaboratively with fellow councillors to try and improve our local community. Thanks to all residents who have taken the time to provide feedback on the various projects and activities the Parish Council are involved with.

#### **Improvements to the Village Centre**

Chorley Borough Council provided an update in relation to the proposed improvements to the village centre. Work undertaken so far includes a stunning mural, courtesy of Seca One Art, funded by the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, installation of a soft play surface outside the community centre, rendering of the external walls and refurbishing of the interior of the community centre. Around the shops, the proposal is to replace the timber cladding, improve the lighting and possibly repave the area. I welcome these improvements to our village centre.

#### **Proposed improvements to Chancery Road underpass**

So far, work to clear overgrown vegetation and the wooden sleepers has been completed on one side of the underpass. The Parish Council has suggested additional improvements to the Chancery Road underpass, which includes:

- Upgrading the current lighting to LED.
- Improvements to the brickwork at the access points.
- Improving the aesthetic look of the railing.
- Installing solar low-level lighting at each entrance to the underpass.

#### **West Way Nature Reserve**

Following the installation of the path which leads to West Way Nature Reserve, Chorley Council have installed some new signage which gives more information as to what type of wildlife can be found in and around the area.

#### **Chorley Flower Show**

Once again, the Parish Council had a stall at the popular, annual Chorley Flower Show event, which took place from 26 – 38 July 2024. Information was available regarding our Village and the plans we have for future improvements. Councillors were also available for a face-to-face chat on the Friday and Saturday to answer queries from residents and other visitors.

### **Remembrance Sunday/Poppies in the Parish**

Parish Councillors attended Chorley's Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 10 November 2024. As Chair, I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. Poppies were also attached to street signs throughout the village during the week before Armistice Day.

### **Monthly Litter Picks**

Our monthly litter picks have attracted more volunteers over recent months and it's great to see so many people wanting to help keep our village clean and tidy.

We meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Community Centre at 10am and we split into groups so we can cover as much of the village as possible. Equipment such as litter pickers, gloves and bin bags are provided.

### **Christmas 2024**

The Parish Council held its annual Christmas carol singing event on Friday 6 December 2024. Due to arrival of Storm Desmond earlier in the day, we had to relocate inside the community centre. Once again, we were accompanied by members of the guitar group, 'AKA Acoustic', featuring our very own Cllrs' John McAndrew and Keith Ashton. We also lit the Christmas tree, which had some new lights installed for the occasion. Refreshments were served in the community centre afterwards.

**Councillor Gillian Sharples**  
**Chair of the Parish Council**