



Christmas Carol Singing

Community Litter Pick

West Way Play Area

WELCOME TO ASTLEY VILLAGE

Astley Village Parish Council





CHAIR'S REPORT

Welcome to our newsletter for Winter 2023.

Chorley Flower Show 2023

In July 2023, your dedicated Parish Councillors once again had a presence at the popular Chorley Flower Show. As always, the event took place in Astley Park. We met lots of people from the village and took note of any issues which were raised. It was great to talk about the work of the Parish Council and the success of various projects over the past year or so.

New play area opens to the public

West Way Sports Hub which opened in 2021 sees another £110,000 investment into area after Chorley Borough Council and Astley Village Parish Council funded the creation of a fantastic play area facility.

The brand-new play area at the West Way Sports Hub has been opened by Chorley Borough and Parish Councillors and pupils from Buckshaw Primary School. The play area was joint funded by Chorley Borough Council and Astley Village Parish Council.

The new addition sees brand-new state of the art equipment for ages 1 to 12 years including a base climb unit inspired by the athletic disciplines of parkour, free running, and Ninja Warrior style challenges.



The Parish Council are delighted that the West Way play area is now open for all residents and visitors to enjoy and we encourage everyone to visit and try out these great facilities.

Love Clean Streets app

Lancashire County Council are promoting the use of the new 'Love Clean Streets' app, which can be installed on your mobile devices free of charge. The app allows you to report highways issues, as well as being able to take a photo and upload it, identifying the location of the issue. This will assist the highways staff and will mean that road/pavement defects are potentially addressed more efficiently.

Parking issues in the village

Ongoing parking issues in the village have been observed and reported along Chancery Fields, Chancery Road and Long Croft Meadow. As a result, the Parish Council have written to Lancashire Police and a representative attended the Parish Council Meeting on 1 November 2023 to discuss the matter.

Christmas 2023 event

This year's Christmas event will take place on Friday 8 December between 6pm and 8pm. We will gather to sing carols outside the community centre and light the Christmas tree. Afterwards, refreshments will be served. We hope you'll be able to join us for this popular village event!

Councillor Gillian Sharples
Chair of the Parish Council



Astley Village Development Plan

Our Current Plan can be found at the end of this article

New Footpath

Since the last Newsletter was published a footpath has been installed linking Buckshaw Primary School and the Clough Acre area on Great Meadow. This follows a well used route that already existed and has been upgraded. This project was jointly funded by Astley Village Parish Council and Chorley Borough Council Neighbourhood priorities scheme.



Old well used route



Upgraded new footpath

Wildflower mini meadows and wildlife corridors

As we have all been aware, the strips of wildflower min-meadows along Chancery Road have been disappointing this year.

Preparation and seeding was done in late Spring but the dry spell in June meant that most areas “failed”. However, there were a few “bright spots” to be seen in late summer.

The non-mowing of the verges again produced some wildflower surprises, positive responses





from residents and attract criticism from others. The Parish Council will continue to support this project next year.



Additional Benches

We have set aside funds to put additional benches around the village. We would like your ideas for where we could put these. Please use our email address, clerk@avpc.org.uk and let us know.

Astley Village Community Centre

The Parish Council have allocated funds to change the layout of the Community Centre so that others activities can be accommodated in the smaller meeting room when the nursery is in operation. This is on hold until the Parish Council can identify specific activities to use the smaller meeting room.

Councillor Chris Sheldon



Astley Village Parish Council

VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATED JANUARY 2023

PROJECTS	ACTIONS	WHEN	BUDGET £
Christmas	Lighting of Christmas Tree/Christmas Event	Ongoing	800
Improve Village Centre & Enhance Village Green (including additional Seating)	Work with Chorley, Places for People, The Astley and shop leaseholder to improve the appearance of Astley Village	Ongoing	8,000
Planter Scheme (including maintenance)	Increase the number of planters throughout the village and expand the "adopt a planter" scheme with residents volunteering to maintain the planters.	Ongoing	860
Tree Planting and Maintenance	To work with and encourage Chorley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to plant/replace trees removed in Astley Village.	Ongoing	500
Wildflower Meadows/ Corridors	Extension of the Mini Meadows of Wildflowers Project to other areas of Astley Village in conjunction with Chorley,	Ongoing	500
Litter Bins	Work with Chorley to site additional litter bins as required, particularly near entrances to Astley Park.	Ongoing	
Respect the Village Campaign	Project to keep the Village clean and tidy. Encourage reporting environmental issues to Chorley & PFP. Provide volunteer litter pick equipment for residents/groups for community litter picks.	Ongoing 2023/24	
Gateway Signs	Refurbish the existing Gateway Signs	2023/24	1,000
Astley Village Community Centre	Reconfigure the existing access arrangements to enable the small meeting room to be used during the day.	2023/24	10,000
Road Safety (Maintenance of SPIDs)	Following the purchase of two permanent solar-powered Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDs) on Chancery Road to deter speeding, to monitor data to identify further action to improve road safety.	2023/24	500
Play area and path at West Way Sports Hub	To fund play equipment (£30,000) at the new West Way Sports Hub and fund additional footpaths (£5,000).	2023/24	35,000
Improving Community Engagement and Raise the Profile of the Parish Council	Including having a presence at the Chorley Flower Festival and banners and Poppies on lighting columns along Chancery Road.	2023/24	5,000
Safety (Footpaths and Lighting in Astley Village)	Encourage the appropriate bodies to maintain footpath surfaces and lighting throughout Astley Village.	2023/24	

COUNCILLOR CASUAL VACANCY



Astley Village Parish Council have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, which will be filled by co-option.

Any person wishing to serve as a Councillor should write to the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk, contact details are on page 15, giving details and information about themselves, background and why they wish to become a Parish Councillor.

To qualify, the applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be 18 years of age and;
- appear on the current register of the Voters List; or during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish; or
- during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date
- have occupied within the parish their only place of work.

Applicants must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor (further information is available by contacting the Parish Clerk)

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

The village newsletter is produced by the Parish Council and distributed to all Astley Village homes. It has spaces for local businesses to advertise to subsidise the cost of its printing and distribution in Spring and Winter. A total print for the newsletter is 1600, delivered by local distributor to every house, just short of 1500 properties in Astley Village.

Besides this delivery, the Parish Council gives a supply to the Community Centre for visitors to collect, the shops and at Derian House. Also, the newsletter appears on the website.

Full Page Adverts	Size: A5, artwork produced, £70 per issue.
Half Page Adverts	Size: half A5, artwork produced, £45 per issue.
Quarter Page Adverts	Size: quarter A5, artwork produced, £25 per issue

SMALL GRANTS FUND

The Parish Council can offer grants to local organised groups for local projects. The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands of pounds but can make a real difference.

If your group would like to apply, all they need to do is submit an application form with some details. A copy of the grant criteria and application form are on the Parish Council website: www.avpc.org.uk

Community Litter Pick

Astley Village Parish Council organise a litter pick on the first Saturday of every month.

Where?

We advertise the "Litter Pick " details on the two notice boards, one near the entrance to Hallgate and the other by the Community Centre.

When?

The meeting time is 10am. and one of the Councillors will be there to meet up with volunteers at the Community Centre and loan out litter pickers and gloves and provide bin bags for the rubbish collected. Where possible we try to recycle cans and plastic bottles.

How Long for?

Our volunteer collectors are encouraged to do the litter pick between 10am. and 11am. before returning their equipment to the Community Centre.

Success?

We have a varied number of people joining us on the litter pick. Sometimes just two to three turn up - sometimes family groups volunteer their time. At the last litter pick there were individuals and family groups making up a total of 13 volunteers. Of course the greater number of volunteers who join us the wider our coverage of the village .

Locations?

The area around the shops is a focal point for people of all ages. Despite there being four litter bins in the vicinity, some residents or visitors fail to place their litter in bins provided. Since the shop/post office changed management, there has been an improvement in the general appearance near the shop front but littering still takes place near the bench and pathways leading to the underpass to the car parks to the rear of the takeaway and the bushes near the Astley Inn car park.

Litter picking certainly isn't a case of blitz an area and the jobs done! There is no room for complacency. For some young people, adults and children, it is obviously acceptable for them to deposit rubbish near rather than in the bins provided. Added to that there are the drivers/passengers who throw rubbish from their car



windows into the verges and bushes.



Astley Village Parish Councillors reported their requests at the last Council Meeting, for bigger bins to be provided at the West Way Playground. The original one was far too small to hold all the rubbish being deposited, resulting in litter being blown around the area. We must try to encourage the young members of our community to use the bins but it is discouraging when their litter is wind blown all over !!

Other residents have commented on overflowing bins at the Hallgate car park. Many residents and visitors have been using them. However the bins were not being emptied sufficiently often and again litter was spilling out and being scattered by the wind. Members of the Parish Council have contacted Chorley Borough Councillors who represent Astley Village to seek a solution to these two situations. There were proposals for a bin to be replaced with a much bigger one or more frequent emptying of the original.



It is very pleasing to report that two large bins are now installed at Westway and another large bin has been added to the path leading to Astley Hall. With the regular emptying programme we hope to see far less litter as overspill being blown around.

Please can we ask residents to be the eyes of the village and report any other bins which are causing an overspill problem.

Chorley Borough Council are working through their partnership with the Tempo charity to increase volunteering in our communities around the borough. One of the aims is to encourage the participation of young people so we have a challenge to work with pupils from local schools. But the scheme isn't just for children. The scheme is open to all members the community. Tempo aim to provide recognition of the regular contribution of volunteers through "Tempo

Time Credits". These have no monetary value, but a volunteer can earn them for the time they have spent contributing to their community. These can be exchanged within the Tempo Time Credit recognition network for a product, service or activity. Using Tempo Time Credits is a way for people to get involved in different activities, develop new hobbies, visit places they may not have been to before and get to know more people in their local area.

Tempo Time Credits can be used with a network of recognition partners for days out at local and national attractions, classes at local facilities or even for vouchers for shopping and entertainment. Tempo Time Credits new online platform also allows people to use Tempo Time Credits for a range of exclusive online offers.

Those who have volunteered report:

- * an improved quality of life,
- * an ability to do something for the community,
- * a way of making new friends
- * an opportunity in using their credits to try out new activities either individually or with a friend.

It would be great to build up a network of volunteers and bring people together on a regular basis. Imagine what we could with 20, 30 or more "Litter Pickers" working in the village areas or what about a weekly litter pick organised at a variety of times to fit in with the volunteers?

The equipment is there, we just need the volunteers to use it !!

Councillor Keith Ashton

Astley Village Parish Council Christmas Carol Event



CHRISTMAS 2023

We are pleased to say that this year's Christmas Carol Singing will be similar to last years' event. From the feedback we have received last year, we will be gathering at the Christmas Tree at 6pm on Friday 8th December 2023 outside the Community Centre. The Christmas Tree lights will be ceremoniously switched on, followed by the Carol Singing. We will be singing

well known Christmas songs, followed by FREE refreshments provided in the Community Centre. So come along and join us in welcoming the festive season!

Councillor Emma Barraclough

Chorley Flower Show 2023



As advertised in the Spring 23 Newsletter, Astley Village Parish Council had a stall at the Chorley Flower Show. We were there all three days and had a fabulous time. We had a larger stall this year which meant visitors could come in, out of the foot traffic and look at our displays. The weather didn't break until the Sunday evening which was a blessing. As a trial run, we had a few plants to give away for free. This was such a success that we had run out by lunchtime on the Saturday! We are planning to

repeat the free plant give away next year in greater volume. We have received positive and constructive feedback about the displays and issues within the village. Some of the suggestions have already been addressed, and there are some which we are still actioning.

I am pleased to announce that due to the continued success, we will be at the Flower Show again next year. We look forward to seeing you there!

Councillor Emma Barraclough

Community Noticeboard



The Parish Council's Community notice board is mounted on the shop wall, near to the Pharmacy entrance and is now being used as a Community notice board where groups can post messages about Community activities, events etc.

Email any notices to the Parish Clerk clerk@avpc.org.uk

Garden of Reflection



You can also tell when the year is moving to its end when "Unknown Tommy Statue" makes his appearance towards Remembrance Day in November.

So it makes it a good time to reflect on the last 12 months. The refurbishment of the benches has been completed, and the new signs add to them to replace the old ones. There has also been an upgrade and relaying of the paths that should make the garden of reflection easier to access.

A poor growing season and budget constraints meant that the garden could not display the flowers and plants that we would have wished.

Looking forward, Do you have ideas that would improve the garden, for example adding past Astley Village residents names to the area as a memorial? Any ideas welcome please send via the Astley Village Parish Council Web Site.

Councillor Ian Thomas



Parish Councillor Contact Details

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Councillor Eddie Murdoch
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Councillor Chris Sheldon
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Councillor Ian Thomas
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Parish Council Information

You can contact the Parish Clerk, Craig Ainsworth by emailing him at clerk@avpc.org.uk or write to him at Astley Village Parish Council, 5 Clarendon Gardens BL7 9GW.

Visit the Parish Council website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information: www.avpc.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings are normally at 6.30pm on the first Wednesday of alternate months, at the Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village. Meetings will be held on:

Wednesday 3 January 2024.
Wednesday 6 March 2024
(at the rise of the Parish Meeting).

Parish Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered to all homes in Astley Village, a circulation of nearly 1600.

The Parish Council has two notice boards located one at the junction of Chancery Road and Hallgate and the other, in the village centre next to the Community Centre.

In addition, the Parish Council have a community notice board, mounted on the shop wall, near to the Pharmacy entrance where groups can post messages about community activities, events etc. Email any notices to the Parish Clerk clerk@avpc.org.uk



Useful Contacts



Village issues relating to litter, trees & hedges, fly tipping and graffiti. Also, your household waste collection service. Report directly to Chorley Council on: **01257 515151**

or at: <https://main.chorley.gov.uk/>

or at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>

or <https://www.chorley.gov.uk/>

You will need to register at 'my account' then you can report any issue directly and pinpoint on a map.



Places for People residents also have the option of contacting Places for People should any matters fall within their service charges such as littering, fly tipping etc.

Get in touch - You can contact us by telephone on 01772 667002.

Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm (excluding bank holidays). When you call, please have your property reference number, house number or postcode ready.

Emergency repairs - All emergency repairs need to be reported by phone. Please call us immediately on 01772 667002. The line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Emergency repairs that should be reported immediately include:

- Gas leaks
- Uncontainable water leaks
- Complete loss of heating and hot water
- Electrical or fire risk
- Property security

An emergency repair is any problem that could be a security risk or cause harm to you, another person or to your property.

Hard of hearing? - Customers who are hard of hearing can text us on 07790 886 967.

Translations - We can use the Big Word language service to translate if English is not your first language.



If you need to report any Lancashire County Council faults such as problems with pavements, roads, street lights, flooding, bollards, gritting or any main infra-structure items you can do this simply online at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>

or telephone Highways reports on: **0300 123 6780**



Lancashire Police offer a free crime alert messaging service. If you would like to receive these free crime alerts you can do so by filling in some basic details at: www.stayintheknow.co.uk

You can also report crimes via the internet at: <https://tinyurl.com/y92qm4um>

Chorley Police Station	01257 269021
Central Control Centre	101
Crimestoppers (anonymous reporting)	0800 555 111
All emergency calls	999



Christmas Carol Singing

Friday 8th December 2023

6pm - 8pm

**Starting with carol singing at 6pm,
round the Village Christmas Tree
(in front of the Community Centre)**

**FREE Refreshments
provided after the carols have
been sung**

Organised by Astley Village Parish Council