

Newsletter

Issue 42, Spring 2019



www.avpc.org.uk

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

Our Christmas carol singing event was well supported again, although the wet weather drove us inside the community centre, where Parklands Band and singers accompanied our festive songs and the WI ladies served refreshments. My thanks go to all who supported the event.

The parish council have long been concerned about speeding on Chancery Road and were very pleased to receive funding for one permanent speed warning device, from Chorley Council to support the funding we had set aside for another. We now have the relevant permissions from Lancashire County Council to install the two devices, at either end of the village. We hope that the SPIDs will be installed this spring.

The two new stone planters, one on the corner of Westway and Chancery Road and the other on the green next to the school were built and planted up in December. They have been admired by a number of residents and should help to brighten up the village with their floral displays through the warmer months. May I take this opportunity to thank those



residents who agreed to water and weed our flower boxes along Chancery Road. The one on Buckshaw Hall Close near to the pond, still needs a "friend"! Please do contact the Clerk if you would be willing to keep an eye on this planter. Also if you are interested in tidying up around where you live, the Clerk has litter picking equipment to loan out to volunteers.

The Parish Council's complaints about the state of some of our side roads have finally been met with the resurfacing work to Great Meadow scheduled for March, as well as Long Croft Meadow and the section of Chancery Road close to the rugby club, having already been repaired.

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Hopefully by the time you read this article the two footpaths through Judeland wood and Hare wood will have been resurfaced, making access to the park through the lovely woods much easier.

The Council is always willing to consider suggestions from residents. The first part of our bi-monthly meetings are for residents to raise issues with the Council or you can contact the clerk through the website with any suggestions between meetings.

The Council has continued to lobby for improvement to our bus service in the daytime and in particular in the evening to allow young people to attend the activities on offer at Inspire youth zone in Chorley. Also we continue to address the issues around parking and special events in the park. We will keep you informed of any progress on these matters.

Finally, the first Thursday in May is the date for the next Parish Council election. If you are interested in supporting your village please consider standing. We would like representation from all areas of the village.

Cllr Laura Lennox
Chairman

Elections for **ASTLEY VILLAGE** Parish Councillors

**Thursday 2nd
May 2019**



Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

If you would, contact the
Elections Officer at Chorley Council 01257 515151
for a Nomination pack (available from late March 2019).

Nominations need to be returned to Elections Officer at
Chorley Council

01257 696 050

E: mark.booken@independentlivinglancashire.co.uk

PROVIDING FREEDOM AT HOME
INDEPENDENT

Living



**"Are care services available
throughout the night?"**

Ask Amanda!

Amanda Barlow is the Registered Care Manager for Independent Living who will answers all your questions.



YES. Two types of care are available.
A "waking watch" - the carer is alert and available to work throughout the night. This is used when someone is very ill and requires constant attention.
A "sleep-in" is where the carer sleeps but can be woken up a maximum of three times.

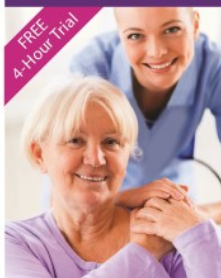
A legal ruling concluded that carers must be paid at least the minimum wage - even when sleeping - because they are at work. Independent Living complies with the law, we pay our staff above the legal hourly rate so you can be sure with us everything is done properly.

This is ideal if a carer is needed for reassurance or for a few one-off tasks such as helping a person to the toilet or prompt medication and is cheaper. Both these options can be long or short term.

Independent Living also offers a "7 till 7" emergency call out service. If you need help in the night, for example after a fall, if you feel ill or need to go to hospital a carer can visit to help - even at 2am!

If you want advice, or our leaflet on Overnight Care & "7 till 7"
Please call Amanda: 01257 696 050

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4-Hour Trial**



Independent Living can provide the best quality bespoke care in peoples own homes. We offer a wide range of services that are all tailored to suit individual needs.

We provide services such as:

- Companionship
- Memory Loss/Alzheimer's Support
- Helping with hobbies & interests
- Housekeeping
- Looking after pets
- Transport & travel
- Insured transport to appointments
- Personal home care
- Overnight, 24 hour or live in care
- Parkinson's & Stroke support
- Medication prompting
- End of life care

**Providing freedom
at home**



www.independentlivinglancashire.co.uk

Registered with the
Care Quality Commission

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASTLEY VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

The Council

During the year ending March 2019 the Parish Council worked hard to maintain and improve the village for its residents.

Councillors

During the period the Council was chaired by Councillor Laura Lennox with Councillor Rod Fraser as the Vice Chairman.

In this reported year there were no Councillors changes.

Astley Village Newsletter

The newsletter continued to be well received. It is published twice a year covering all aspects of the Council's work and will be distributed to every household.

Website

The Council's modern website looks professional and contains a lot of information on the Council, local items and documents you can look up.

Council Employees

During the year one of our Village Caretakers, Ronnie, retired and the Council wished him well. Jamie continues to do litter picking, tidying and other tasks. Debra Platt, the Clerk, also continued her good work for the Council.

Village Plan

The Council's village plan continues to be reviewed throughout the year. The plan informs the budget setting which is carried out in January for the new year beginning the 1st April. Some of the projects will be worked on with Chorley Council whilst others the Parish Council will look to support or develop itself.

In this year the Council has provided two feature stone built flower beds, one at the entrance to the village at West Way and the other in the centre. Also it continues to maintain its displays of flower tubs around the village which were resited and now benefit from being adopted by residents.

Value for Money

The Council spends the money it collects from residents wisely and for the benefit of Astley Village residents. Based on a band D council tax property in the village, the approximate cost is 40p per week for the Parish Council's services during the year. This is collected by Chorley Council and costs a total of £22.00 for the year. We hope you agree this is very good value for money.

Summary

The Council is looking forward to making further improvements in the coming year.

Laura Lennox, Chairman

REVIEW OF CHORLEY WARD BOUNDARIES

The Parish Council made a submission to the Boundary Commission regarding new ward boundaries for Chorley Borough Council. The current Astley & Buckshaw ward is significantly under-represented due to the growth of Buckshaw Village.

The Council made the case that Astley Village relates most closely to Chorley Town given its proximity to Astley Park and easy walking/bus routes into town. Many residents access key services (such as medical, dental, etc) and shops in Chorley. The Park is very well used by residents and there is good access to the hospital.

The Council recognised that Buckshaw Village has grown and has its own distinct community which should lead to the creation of a new Buckshaw ward. The part of Buckshaw within the current ward is in Euxton Parish and, whilst Astley Village residents use services and other facilities (such as the railway station) in Buckshaw and Euxton, there is no close relationship with either.

The Commission published their recommendations in January and the Parish Council welcomed the proposal to place the parish in the new Chorley North ward.

The Parish Council wish to see the name Astley featuring in the name of the new ward, particularly as all of the parish is within the new ward. It suggested, therefore, that the ward is called **Chorley North with Astley**. Chorley Council has supported this request and we now await the final decision of the Commission.

The new boundaries will apply from May 2020 so residents will be able to vote for their new ward Councillors as part of all out elections in Chorley.

CLlr Chris Lennox



ASTLEY VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE

The current Parish Council is approaching the end of its 4 year term, and as councillors we wanted to highlight the ways in which we have worked to improve our Village.



We set out our aims in a Development Plan which we have reviewed and consulted residents about each year. We have worked closely with Chorley and Lancashire Councils as part of local Neighbourhood Working to deliver real improvements to our Village centre.

Four stone planters have been constructed - two in partnership with Chorley and Places For People and two by the Parish Council, one on the Village Green and one at the entrance to the Village. The two newest were completed in December and planted up. As well as creating floral displays, they are permanent markers which identify and enhance the Village.



The Village Green has seen access being provided to the benches and the development of wild flower areas. as well as the new stone planter. The Parish Council is planning the development of a wildflower meadow to the rear of the Green.

Nine benches have been installed along Chancery Road by bus stops and near the Community Centre. All the bus stops now have seats for people to sit on while walking around the Village or waiting for a bus.





We have re-positioned our flower planters at the ends of roads and we are working with local residents to look after the planters by weeding and watering especially in the Summer. Each year the Council plants daffodil bulbs in the grass verges on Chancery Road and these look magnificent in the Spring.

Litter is always an issue and a challenge. The Parish Council lengthsmen pick litter along Chancery Road each week. The Council is working with Chorley to replace litter bins around the Village and has organised a number of litter picks / clean-ups. We will continue to press Chorley, Places For People and the Village Centre shops to take their responsibility for clearing litter. Local groups, such as the Astley Village Cubs Scouts and Beavers, and some local residents are keen to play their part, and the Parish Council recently purchased litter picking kits to support volunteers.



Many residents have expressed concern about speeding on Chancery Road. The Parish Council has worked with both Lancashire and Chorley to monitor speeding and seek ways to encourage responsible and safe driving. Two permanently fixed solar-powered speed indicator devices will shortly be purchased to be installed at either end of the Village. This will enable speeding to be monitored and ensure drivers know when they are speeding.

A number of Village organisations have benefitted from grants made by the Council. The Astley Village Cubs Scouts and Beavers have received start-up grants and Buckshaw Primary School have a new gardening bench. We subscribe to The Friends of Astley Park and have provided equipment to support schools in balsam bashing. The Parish Council has also set aside a grant to assist in the renovation of Astley Hall.



Each Christmas the Parish Council organises a Christmas carol singing event in the Village centre, followed by warm drinks and mince pies. This has proved very popular and residents have enjoyed the community spirit. Parklands High School band and choir have led the singing and the WI have served the

refreshments. Residents have commented on the success of the living Christmas Tree purchased by the Council which always looks lovely with its Christmas lights.

The Parish Council has lobbied hard on behalf of the Village to improve the state of some of our roads and has had some success with Lancashire in achieving limited repairs. We make regular representations to both Chorley and Lancashire regarding parking issues and special events in the Park, and will continue to seek better parking controls. We have succeeded in limiting parking in the lay-by opposite the Village centre. The Council will continue to lobby for an improvement to our bus service in the daytime, and also in the evenings to enable our young people to attend the activities at the new Youth Zone in Chorley.



The Council set up a new website in 2016 www.avpc.org.uk where residents can find information about the Parish Council and local news and events. As a relatively small Parish with a limited budget, and with only one increase in the precept during the last four years, Councillors hope that residents agree a lot has been achieved which has enhanced our Village. We hope our successor Council in May can use this as a basis for further development and improvement.

ClIr Chris Lennox

WILD FLOWER MEADOW

Council meetings are not always as boring as many people may think. We discuss a wide variety of subjects and being the "think tank" for what we hope to be in the best interest for our Parish.



An idea put forward for consideration is to create a wild flower meadow area at the side of Buckshaw School, that also runs at the back of our village green. It is an ideal spot for development as it is often overgrown and neglected for many months of the year.

The layout could not be better as it would be seen from all angles and the footpath that runs through it would make a pleasant walkway to the area.

The advantages would be providing food and shelter for important pollinators like butterflies and bees to name a few. So many meadows have vanished and as the pollinators and bees decline so do insects and the animals that eat the insects such as birds, hedgehogs, and bats.

Bees in particular are declining by the millions in the UK and we have to import bees from other countries (France) for example, however studies have shown that the imported bees are considered a threat to our native honey bees.

This would be a project for everyone to appreciate and enjoy. If you have any suggestions or just want to have a say please come along to our council meetings.

Councillor Rod Fraser



REPORTING VILLAGE ISSUES TO CHORLEY COUNCIL

The Parish Council is keen that residents report any matters of concern around the Village relating to litter, trees & hedges, fly tipping and graffiti.

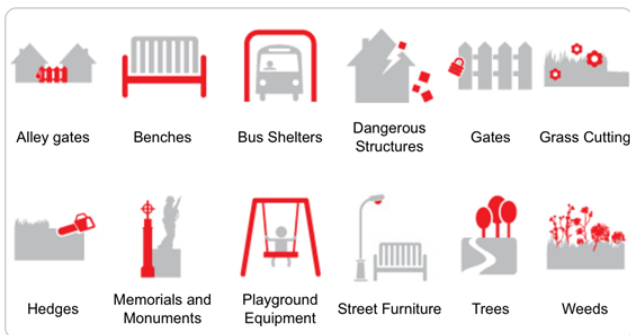
Whilst residents can contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, it is quicker and you can monitor the response if you report directly to Chorley Council. You can do this by telephone on (01257) 515151 or on the Chorley website **www.chorley.gov.uk** You will need to register for **my account** and then you can **Report** an issue.



The screenshots show what you can report and when you select you will be asked to locate the issue on a detailed map of the Village. Once you have done that you will be asked for further details (which

could include photos), and finally you will see a summary of your issue and when it will be resolved by. Chorley Council will you send you an email when the matter has been resolved.

As Parish Councillors we have found it more efficient to report direct and matters are usually dealt with promptly, particularly if they represent a health and safety issue.



CLlr Chris Lennox

REPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO PLACES FOR PEOPLE

The Parish Council is keen that residents who live on the PfP estate and pay a service charge report any matters of concern relating to landscaping, litter, green areas, trees & hedges, fly tipping and graffiti directly to PfP.

Residents are encouraged to register for an online account at people.co.uk

Reports can be made by phoning 01772 667002 or 0845 850 9571 Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm (excluding bank holidays).

(PfP advise that calls to 0845 numbers will cost 5p per minute plus your phone provider's access charge (they do not apply any additional costs to your call). Calls to local numbers may be cheaper or included in your call package. Please check with your provider.)

Reports can be made in writing to:
Business Support (Complaints)



Places for People

PO Box 2070, Preston, PR5 9BY

You will need to give your property reference number, house number and postcode.

Reports should include the location, details and any photos which clearly show the nature of the complaint. Residents often post on social media and this could form the basis of a direct report to PfP.

Reports can also be made to Chorley Council and details of how to do that can be found in a separate article.

CLlr Chris Lennox

HIGHWAY ISSUES

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 using this link:

<https://bit.ly/2Y06eDh>

Or telephone



Highways

reports: 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 using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y92qm4um>

Chorley Police Station 01257 269021

Central Control Centre 101

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111
(anonymous reporting)

All emergency calls 999

RESPECT OUR VILLAGE CAMPAIGN

The Parish Council has considered ways to involve the community in building respect for our Village. As councillors we know that residents get frustrated by litter, dog fouling and fly tipping of rubbish. We are committed to promoting a cleaner and tidier environment.

The Parish lengthsman picks litter along Chancery Road each week. The Council is working with Chorley to replace litter bins around the Village. We will continue to press Chorley, Places For People and the Village Centre shops to take their responsibility for clearing litter. But we need residents to report issues to Chorley Council and, as appropriate, to Places for People. Details of how to do this are set out in separate articles in this newsletter.



Local groups, such as the Astley Village Cubs Scouts and Beavers, and some local residents are keen to play their part, and the Parish Council recently purchased litter picking kits (see picture below). These can be loaned to those wishing to organise their own litter picks.

In the volunteer litter picking kit are plenty of litter pickers, bag rings, gloves and black bags for individual residents or a group to go out on an organised litter pick. Any residents or local groups wishing to borrow the equipment should contact our Clerk Debra.

Cllr Chris Lennox

FRIENDS OF ASTLEY PARK

This voluntary group has continued its work of maintaining and enhancing one of Chorley's greatest assets, Astley Park.

Some of our work involves picking up litter in areas which are not routinely covered by Council Employees including wading through the river. It is so sad to witness the amount of unsightly and sometimes dangerous litter which is thrown into the woods and river, especially when there are so many bins provided.

One of our recent enterprises, the planting of a reed bed where the River Chor enters the park, has been a great success. The reeds are now well established and helping to filter the water. We now need to raise the level of the two small weirs to force more water through the bed.

The invasive species, Himalayan Balsam, will soon be sprouting again and it's spread is very concerning as it tends to crowd out our native plants. We are grateful for the assistance given by a number of local schools in helping us to pull up these plants. If you see any of these please feel free to pull them up and snap them just above the roots. Strangely satisfying!



We have planted hundreds of daffodils in the woods where we have cleared some of the beech saplings. Hopefully, some should appear this Spring.



Our next large project is the restoration of a footpath which first appeared on OS maps sometime between WW1 and WW2.

Originally surfaced with what appears to be a mixture of gravel and pebbles it is currently, completely overgrown and virtually indiscernible throughout its length. Where it passes through Dog Trap Wood, it was paved with stone and four small stone bridges carried it over the stream. The bridges and path are now largely dismembered, the stone scattered around. At its eastern end, near Rectory Close a flight of stone steps are in very poor condition and potentially dangerous.

Reconstructing all 770 metres of the path would make a currently underused area more readily accessible, providing good all weather access (particularly in the winter) and linking in well with the existing network of paths.

FoAP have raised the reconstruction at Astley Advisory Group meetings over the last two years and whilst there has been wide support for the idea nothing so far has happened.

As Council officers are supportive of the idea we are resolved, with Council approval, to take this project forward in three phases. 1. The steps near Rectory Close. 2. The stone paved section with the bridges. 3. The rest of the path. Although not necessarily in that order.

We have already raised the £494 needed to cover the initial survey by Conservation Contracts North West.

As you know we participate in a wide variety of tasks, some strenuous, others not so, such as tending the planters in the courtyard of Cafe Ambio and the sensory garden.

So, if you feel you would like to help us to work with the Council to continue to make our park something that we can be rightly proud of, please contact us.

For information and contact details please visit our website at www.friendsfastleypark.com or contact Keith Woan on 01257 278759

John McAndrew

COUNCIL INFO

Council Clerk, Mrs Debra Platt
9 Ambleside Avenue, Euxton, PR7 6NX
Tel. 01257 234003
Email: clerk@avpc.org.uk

Visit the website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information.

Full Council Meetings are held on Wednesday's in Astley Village Community Centre beginning at 7.00pm, forthcoming dates are:

**8 May, 3 July, 4 September,
6 November**

Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered solus to all Astley Village homes, a circulation of nearly 1500.

The 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.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

SMALL GRANTS FUND

Astley Village Parish Council offers funding assistance to local organised groups for local projects.

The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands.

If your group would like to apply, all they need to do is submit an application form with some details.

Contact the Parish Council for a copy of the grant criteria and form or see them on the website.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

It is printed on quality A5 gloss art paper in full colour and is 16 sides of A5, booklet, and distributed 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.

CHORLEY FLOWER SHOW

www.chorleyflowershow.com

The award-winning show is back for 2019

The Chorley Flower Show in Astley Park is fast becoming one of the most popular events in Lancashire.

SATURDAY 27 AND SUNDAY 28 JULY 2019

STANDARD PRICES FROM THURSDAY 25 JULY 2019

£12 adults £2 children £26 family ticket

You can pay on the gate by cash or card. Programmes will be available at the show for £1.

TICKET OUTLETS

Chorley Council civic offices, Union Street. Malcolm's Musicland, Chapel Street

ASTLEY VILLAGE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman - Cllr Laura Lennox

Judeland, Tel: 260264

Cllr Matthew Lynch

Buckshaw Hall Close, Tel: 07856 960931

Vice Chairman - Cllr Rod Fraser

Great Meadow, Tel: 07711 283303

Cllr John McAndrew

The Farthings, Tel: 262914

Cllr Susan Crook

Great Meadow, Tel: 07832 144004

Cllr John Nuttall

Great Meadow, Tel: 07852 722204

Cllr Barbara Darragh

Buckshaw Hall Close, Tel: 07515 681537

Cllr Keith Robinson

Long Croft Meadow, Tel: 278686

Cllr Chris Lennox

Judeland, Tel: 260264

Cllr Chris Sheldon

The Farthings, Tel: 266463

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