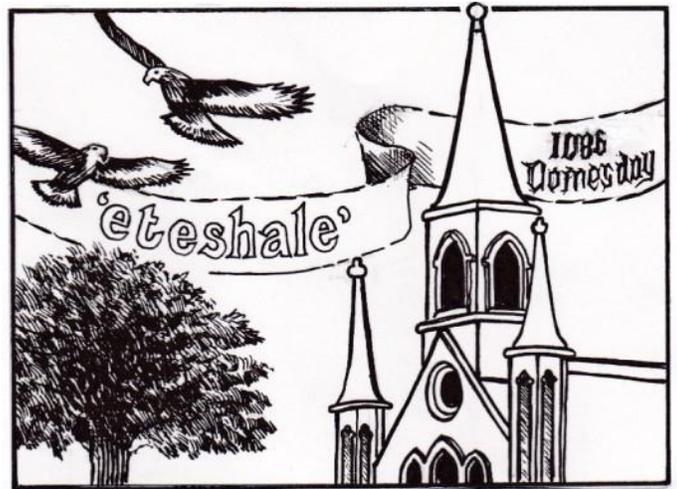


THE HASSALL HERALD

Hassall Parish
News Letter

Spring 2019



Dear Parishioner

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Hassall Herald with news and views from Hassall Parish Council. In this newsletter we have some dates for your diary alongside key developments from the previous few months and some follow ups from ongoing projects and issues.

If you have any comments or feedback then please feel free to forward it to us either using the Contact page on our website www.hassall-parish-council.org.uk or direct to Ruth Burgess, HPC Clerk (details at the end of this newsletter)

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COME AND JOIN US!

As is now tradition in our newsletters, would you please consider whether you would be prepared to join HPC as a councillor? We are currently 3 councillor's short and could really do with some support.

We meet 6 times a year usually on a Monday at Sandbach library from 7pm – 9pm. At the risk of being repetitive the meetings are not 'political' and we deal only with items of local parish interest/concern. You don't need any experience or qualifications and there is no public speaking involved. Unless you actively volunteer to do anything on behalf of HPC there is no other call on your time outside of the meetings. We really do just need a couple more 'bums on seats' and your thoughts and opinions on all things local to us.

If you are interested, details of how to become a councillor are on our website or you can contact Ruth, our clerk, directly by emailing clerk@hassall-parish-council.org.uk

HPC COUNCILLOR UPDATE

For the last few years **Janie Stark** and **Eric Smith**, as 2 of the longest serving members of HPC, have rotated the Chair and Vice Chair positions (with the full support of other councillors) to provide some continuity of local knowledge and experience to proceedings. However, with Richard Holt and Graham Warner both joining HPC in August 2017, both Eric and Janie felt that it was the right time to stand aside and let fresh blood inject some new impetus into the Council and frankly, give the old timers a well-earned rest!. Therefore, with effect from Tuesday 8th January 2019, **Richard Holt** has taken over as Chair and **Graham Warner** as Vice Chair. Eric and Janie remain as HPC councillors. **John Wray** continues to support us in his role as Conservative councillor for Brereton Rural. Finally, it's with regret that we announce that **Roy Price** has resigned from HPC for personal reasons. Roy was a very active member of HPC and made a significant contribution during his time with us. HPC would like to thank him for all his efforts and wish him well for the future.

DIARY DATE – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

All HPC meetings are open to the public and the agenda for every meeting is published in advance, along with the meeting date, on the website and on the Parish noticeboard. Minutes of every meeting are also available for you to read. However, every year there is an **Annual Parish Meeting** and this year it is **on Tuesday April 2nd @7pm in Sandbach Library**. We had a good turn out last year with some lively discussion and hope for even better this year. All Hassall residents are invited to come along and find out more about HPC and raise any questions you may have. If you may be interested in becoming a Councillor this is also a good opportunity to come and meet us.

What a Mess!.....

Litter litter and more litter

It's been noticed that the amount of litter in the Parish is yet again building up to unacceptable levels. It's in hedgerows, on the verges and on the road. Not only is it unsightly but it's a danger to our wildlife. Therefore, as part of the Hassall Housekeeping agenda the next litter pick will be on **Sunday 31st MARCH at 11am**. The meeting place is next to the HPC noticeboard on Alsager Road. Equipment will be provided but please wear appropriate footwear. Please join us if you can. With a few of us it doesn't take more than an hour and makes a huge difference. Many thanks



THE ELUSIVE SUPERFAST BROADBAND



Following a number of meetings with broadband solution providers Whitespace Technologies last year, and their subsequent presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting in April, unfortunately there was insufficient interest registered by parishioners to proceed with implementation and so at least for the time being we have shelved any further discussions. In the meantime, Openreach, BT's partner in broadband service infrastructure provision, has been busily putting up the necessary fibre optic boxes and wires to connect Hassall Parish to the speedier outside world.

You may have seen the dangling cables and unconnected boxes around the parish yourselves! Like us, you probably thought that at last we would be getting what we've long been promised by the Government and BT – superfast broadband connectivity. Sadly not as it turns out, or at least not unless you're prepared to delve deep into your wallets.

Despite the initial investment being put in, to actually connect us up would be through establishing a 'Community Fibre Partnership' with Openreach which entails us letting them know which premises want upgrading to fibre. Once submitted, Openreach would confirm the scope and – you've guessed it – the cost of providing a new fibre infrastructure for Hassall Parish so that we can decide if we wish to proceed to the next step.

Sarcasm aside, if you are interested in investigating this option further – with absolutely no obligation to proceed - then please register your interest by **March 31st 2019 by emailing your email address, name and address that you would like connecting to clerk@hassall-parish-council.org.uk**.

There is more information available on the Community Fibre Partnership at www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk.

HPC will submit the necessary information if we have any registered interest.



HPC REMEMBERS - ARMISTICE DAY COMMEMORATIONS



As you know, on the 11th November 2018 it was 100 years since the end of the 1st World War. There was a huge turnout of Sandbach residents to mark the occasion, pay their respects and watch the Parade and laying of wreaths at the war Memorial on the Cobbles.

Representing HPC, the then Chair Janie Stark took part in the parade from Westfield's to the memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of HPC residents.



2018 HASSALL PARISH SURVEY FINDINGS

You may recall that last year we undertook a survey of residents to establish a) should we be preparing a Neighborhood or Local Parish Plan and b) what should we be focusing on as a Parish Council? We presented the findings at the Annual Parish Meeting but appreciate that not all of you were present. Therefore, below is a summary of the survey results and the resultant action plan.

HPC Plan 2018/19 Based on Survey Findings

HASSALL HERITAGE PROJECTS

- Initiate policy of Hassall Hedgerow Protection working with land owners
- Tree Protection Plan to replace lost and damaged trees
- Installation of bird nesting boxes on parish land
- Plant up verges and other green zones with endangered native wild flowers
- Local Pond survey and protection plan
- Encourage Hedgehog Friendly practices and ensure wildlife corridors are kept intact
- Ensure the maintenance and protection of footpaths and bridleways within the parish
- Working with land owners to establish how we can repair and protect our Cheshire Railings
- Promoting Hassall Heritage e.g. Lodley Church by deployment of information plaques in key places

"Protecting and Replenishing our Rural Heritage"

(Working with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the Campaign for Rural England)

HASSALL HOUSEKEEPING PROJECTS

Transportation and Traffic Management

- Attempt to resolve the No. 78 Bus route issue
- Install SIDs in problematic locations
- Undertake 2nd Traffic Data survey June 2018
- Keep signage and roads clear of obstructions

Parish Maintenance

- 2 x Litter Picks per annum: Spring/Autumn
- Ensure gully and drainage maintenance programme is adhered to by CE
- Attempt to secure additional gritting bins
- Keep street furniture in good repair

Broadband and Utilities

- Investigate options for superfast broadband provision
- Investigate discount/bulk buying options for domestic oil users

Communication & Information

- Working with CE to establish better channels of information, consultation and communication on issues that affect Hassall directly
- Keep the web site and noticeboard up to date
- Issue 2 x newsletters per annum: Spring and Autumn
- Attract at least ONE new Councillor

Hassall Parish Council

2018 Summary of Survey Results

25.2% of the residents in Hassall completed the survey and returned their feedback and comments. **Thank You.**

19 residents who completed the survey had lived in Hassall for **11 or more years**. Most people who responded are **over age 46**.

The 3 top reasons for things you **disliked** about living in Hassall were:-

- No Local Shop or Community Hub (16)
- Road Maintenance/condition (17)
- Speeding Cars/Traffic Volume (12)

You **liked** living in Hassall because:-

- Rural Area (17)
- Close to Sandbach (18)
- Nice Area to Walk (15)

"It's a peaceful place to live"

Future Housing Developments is your main worry/concern about the future of Hassall (13)

Green Belt Land was the top answer when we asked if there were any areas of Hassall or aspects of Hassall that you feel should be **particularly protected?**

The Countryside/Rural Location was the **main reason** you live in Hassall.

(11 residents chose this as their main reason for living in Hassall)

You don't live here to work so more housing choices or local jobs were not important to you but **protecting the natural environment** and history/heritage of Hassall is

50% of people who responded saw **'No Gritting'** as a cause for concern

23 out of 24 people wanted to see the **Cheshire Railings Protected**



All of you without a mains gas supply would be interested in a negotiated **discount/bulk purchasing price.** You had divided opinions about whether mains gas was important or not

Thinking about roads, traffic and pedestrian/cyclist/horse rider **safety in the Parish**, you found the following roads to be a problem:

- Mill Hill Lane
- Alsager Road
- Day Green
- Hassall Road
- Mill Lane

You want less traffic, moving more slowly and better transport options

	Not Important	Very Important
More Housing choices	14	0
More local jobs	8	1
Better Transport	2	9
Better Roads	1	13
Leisure/Recreation facilities	5	3
Protecting the Natural Environment	1	15
Protecting Historic/Traditional Aspects	1	14
Better Infrastructure (e.g bus services, shops)	2	6

Around 1/3 of you want **more bins!** Litter, Dog and Gritting Bins.

	Not Important	Very Important
Improved mobile reception	2	6
Faster Broadband speed	0	11
Less traffic volume	0	11
Slower traffic speeds	0	10
A Mains gas supply	9	5
More Litter bins	4	6
Gritting Bins	1	6
Dog waste bins	2	8
Other [Please specify] - Local Shops	0	1
Other [Please specify] - Pleasant Village to live in	0	1
Other [Please specify] - State of the roads	0	1

Faster Broadband Speed was very important to 50% of you. Mobile reception seems not to be an issue.

DEMISE OF THE No. 78 BUS SERVICE

The discontinuation of the No.78 local bus service has been a particularly frustrating issue for HPC, along with the residents who used it, as it is one of the important public services that local parish councils have no jurisdiction, Despite representations we have been unable to secure its reinstatement. The decision was taken on a cost Vs usage basis by the bus operator in consultation with Cheshire East, resulting in the service stopping on July 22nd 2018.

However we have received the following from Cheshire East Council: Since the 1st April the 78 service has ceased operating between Leighton Hospital and Alsager. The 78 service between Leighton Hospital and Alsager has been partially replaced by the new 317 service however after Malkins Bank the 317 service does not route down Smithy Grove, Alsager Road and Hassall Road but instead goes along New Inn Lane and Sandbach Road to Rode Heath.

The 78 service was previously operated commercially (i.e. without Council subsidy) however the operator made the commercial decision that the 78 route between Leighton Hospital and Alsager was no longer commercially viable and registered to withdraw this part of the service. The Council now provides most of this section of the route as the 317 service but has had to make some changes as the previous route between Leighton Hospital and Alsager took 63 minutes which would not fit either an hourly or 90 minutely service timetable or would potentially require an additional vehicle at a likely additional cost of around £100,000.

In order to save this time and accommodate some other additions in the 317 service the route has had to make some time savings. The most significant change is in western Alsager where the service will 'terminate' by doing a single direction loop of the area rather than having to go through the area twice – i.e. on the way out and on the way back. This change allows the service to save the time needed for the timetable but for the loop to work the service needs to go via Newcastle Road instead of Sandbach Road and to Rode Heath before Alsager. This unfortunately means the service continues along New Inn Lane after Malkins Bank instead of Smithy Grove, New Inn Lane and Sandbach Road. The differences in the route can more clearly be seen in the attached plans showing the old 78 route and the new 317 route.

This **does** unfortunately leave Hassall without access to a bus service but any Cheshire East resident without access to a bus service is able to register to use the Council's demand responsive (dial a ride) Little Bus service. Details of how to register for the Little Bus service can be found at <http://www.dqbus.co.uk/d-q-little-bus.html> or a membership form can be obtained by phoning 0845 077 9110 between 0930 and 1230 Monday to Friday.

HOORAY! - M6 SMART MOTORWAY SCHEME NEARING COMPLETION

After nearly 4 years of relative 'pain' for the 120,000 daily M6 users the end of the roadworks is in sight. Testing of the Smart Technology has been completed between Junctions 18 and 19 of the M6 as part of the Junctions 16-19 SMART MOTORWAY SCHEME.

This means that, further to opening the new 4 new lanes, motorists can now travel at speeds of 70mph and are experiencing the full benefits of smart motorway technology, according to Highways England.

So what is left to do?

Work is ongoing to complete the remaining construction work between 16 and 18 and is on schedule for all roadworks to be removed by the end of March. In the meantime, the temporary 50mph speed limit will remain in place between 16-18.

For more details contact of the scheme contact

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m6j165to19



SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SID)

CLOCKED YA! NEW DAY GREEN SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

HPC are purchasing a SID device following a trial run at Day Green where the highest speed recorded was 65MPH!!! The HPC SID device will be positioned on the 3 major roads of HPC initially to gain speed data, which I will be shared with the Sandbach Police for onward speed gun detection by PCSO Sue Holt and as a visual speed device to make drivers aware of how fast they are traveling along our parish roads.

Stage 2 will be to train Parish volunteers who have voiced concerns over speeding drivers to undertake speed gun training.

If you are un-happy with speeding vehicles then volunteer so we can ALL do something about it and make our roads safer.



PCSO – Police Community Support Officer

The Police and Crime Commission for Cheshire have appointed Sue Holt as PCSO for Hassall Parish along with Brereton Rural and Elworth. Sue is supported by Amy Heath. The role of a police community support officer (PCSO) is to reduce crime, fear and antisocial behaviour in the community. PCSO's aim to provide a visible and reassuring presence in the neighborhood. This means they spend around 80% of their time patrolling their patch on foot or bicycle. Sue, therefore, regularly now patrols Hassall Parish and publishes a weekly Beat Report covering her area which is available on our website. She will also be holding Beat surgeries as soon as a suitable venue can be found. We hope that Sue can also attend the Annual Parish Meeting on April 2nd where you can speak to her directly about any concerns that you may have in relation to crime or anti-social behaviour etc etc. Sue can be contacted via:

 Facebook by searching 'Sandbach Elworth and Brereton Rural Police' ;

 via Twitter [SbachElwBrRuPol](https://twitter.com/SbachElwBrRuPol)

 or internet www.cheshire.police.uk/sandbach-elworth-brereton-rural.



You can also sign up to Cheshire Police Alert which is a new community messaging system whereby you can receive information about what's happening locally. By registering you can choose to receive information from Cheshire Police by either email, text or voice mail. Visit www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk

KEEP IT LOCAL – HASSALL PARISH BUSINESS DIRECTORY

In an effort to both support local businesses we have introduced a Local Business Directory on the website which it is fair to say, is rather thinly populated at the moment although we know that there are many local entrepreneurs and business owners amongst us. We cannot advertise local businesses under Parish Council legislation but we can list what services and business are available in the Parish. If you would like your business/service details included then please contact our clerk, Ruth Burgess, through the Contact pages on the web site.

**To get in touch with the Hassall Parish Council
please contact our Parish Clerk
Mrs. Ruth Burgess.**

**Email: Clerk@hassall-parish-council.org.uk
Telephone: 01270 875408**

