



# Tattenhall & District Parish Council Annual Report 2017-2018

## Chairman's Report 2017-2018 Iain Keeping

I have now almost completed a year as Chairman of the Council, a year which has seen a number of events of importance for our future. As well as a new chairman, the Council welcomed a new member, Esther Sadler Williams, but the most significant change has been the retirement of Jean Dutton, Clerk to the council for 33 years. Her contribution has been outstanding, and we wish her well for her retirement.

Perhaps of most significance for the future of our community was the long-awaited decision of the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities to reject the '3 appeals' for developments which would have increased the number of houses by up to 315. The effort by the Council has been huge over the last 5 years to limit development in line with the Neighbourhood Plan. Nevertheless, we welcome new residents of the 90 homes at the Redrow development and 162 homes at the retirement village this year.

Despite this significant increase in housing in the Parish, the Council have been working with the Local Authority to provide sufficient land to meet our housing allocation by 2030. There remains a need to provide a further 43 housing units over the next 12 years. In the draft Local Plan, part 2, there is a proposal to extend the settlement boundary of Tattenhall beyond Grakle Croft sufficiently to allow 30 units to be built. An application to build on the site is currently awaiting a decision by planners. The Parish Council are confident that the remaining 13 units will be provided by 'windfall' development within the time-frame. The Local Authority have accepted our view but reserved the right to extend the settlement boundary to include land beside Castlefields if the housing need is not met by 2025.

There have been significant changes to public open space in the parish this year. Most notably the ageing children's play area on the Park has been replaced. The new play area which was officially opened on 30th September has proved a great success. The committee of councillors and residents are to be congratulated for their efforts in raising money from events, grants and of course in the precept. The wider community has, by contrast, effectively lost almost 2 hectares of public recreation space following enclosure of the school. The Council will explore how the space can be re-provided.

The Christmas Fair was again a great success, organised by the Community Pride Group. We look forward to the commemoration of the Armistice, WW1 later this year, organised by the same group, a fine example of the community working together.

I would like to mention some of the charitable events which not only raise money for good causes but also serve to bring the community together. These include the Beer Festival, the Scouts, Tattenhall Park Primary School's Worm Fest, Tattenhall Hall Garden Open Day and a number of businesses Ditzzy Rose, The Studio, Salon Vie, Illingworth Seddon. Together the community has raised over £25,000 for MIND, Save the Family, OPAL (Older People Active Lives), The Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Cancer research, Alzheimer's Society, Claire House Hospice, the St. James's Place Foundation and many others; a remarkable achievement.

I would like to thank my colleagues on Parish Council for their support over the last year and in particular thank Jean Dutton for guiding me through the workings of local government.



## Summary of Accounts 2017-2018

In the year to March 2018, receipts totalled £146,116, substantially higher than normal as a result of £95,604 of grants and donations towards the replacement of the Play Area on the Park. The Precept received from Council Tax payers in the Parish was £36,530.

With regard to our payments, the main elements in the year were:

£125,049	Play Area
£ 25,999	VAT, which will be reclaimed in 2018/19
£ 10,332	Employee salaries, mainly the Clerk
£ 3,480	Maintenance of The Park and other Parish areas, including grass and hedge cutting
£ 2,772	Professional fees and subscriptions, donation to Parish News, other administration
£ 1,592	Room hire
£ 1,473	Community events and 'Community Pride' (formerly Best Kept Village)
£ 2,920	All other items
<b>£173,617</b>	

£ 67,492	Opening funds at 1 April 2017
£146,116	Receipts in the year
<b>(£173,617)</b>	Payments in the year

## Precept 2018-2019

Each year, in January, the Finance Committee of the Parish Council meets to look at what money will be needed in the coming year to pay for budgeted items. This funding forms part of your Council Tax (Precept) and allows the Parish Council to deliver the services for which it is responsible.

Two years ago, there was a small percentage increase in the Precept rate, but there was also a levy of £10 on each Band D household raise funds to rebuild the play area in the centre of the village, which is now a fantastic asset for our community.

In 2018/19, the Parish Council intends to levy a further one-off £10 payment per Band D property so that Operation Shield can be made available to every property in the parish. Operation Shield is a police initiative which works by using unique DNA liquid to mark property in your home. The DNA coding is linked solely to your address so that if goods are stolen and then recovered, they can be traced back to you. Each household will receive one kit free of charge and additional kits can be bought at modest cost from the police. The parish will be able to put up signs showing that Operation Shield is used in the area and results have shown that crime figures are much reduced when thieves realise that property is protected with DNA liquid.

Tattenhall is one of the last parishes in Cheshire to take part in Operation Shield and the Parish Council feels that it would be of great benefit to all residents.

Including the £10 one-off levy will raise a Precept of £48,384 meaning a payment of £46.49 per Band D property.

These figures were recommended to the Parish Council and were approved at the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.



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## Attendance at Meetings

Tattenhall Parish Council holds at least 12 Parish Council meetings per year including the Annual or First meeting which is held in May and is when the Chairman is elected.

Over the past Council year each meeting has been attended by an average of 12 Councillors. Parish Council meetings have throughout the year have been regularly attended by Matthew Morris of the Bolesworth Estate and the Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor Mike Jones. Other attendees include our local Police Officer PC Ged Gigg, and at the March meeting PCSO Rachel McKeivitt introduced herself having taken over as the PCSO for the Tattenhall Area. All Council meetings are open to the public and as such meetings are regularly attended by members of the public who have an opportunity to speak in open forum or public participation.

## Tattenhall Play Area opened in September 2017

September 2017 saw the new play area in Tattenhall officially opened by Carys Manson, the lucky child who was chosen to cut the ribbon.

Tattenhall Parish Council decided to redevelop the play area early in 2016, following which it worked with a group of young mothers, who joined the Parish Council working group and became instrumental in consulting the community about what play equipment would be most suitable.

That same group then set about raising the balance of the funds needed and was successful in obtaining a £50k grant from WREN; £5k from MBNA, and generous donations from local businesses including Great Bear Distribution, Morton's Spar, Tattenhall and Tattenhall Amateur Dramatic Society.

Since opening the play area, which has equipment for a range of ages and access for disabled children, it has been enjoyed by many local children.

At the opening, Chairman, Iain Keeping, said "It's a fantastic facility for Tattenhall and the Parish Council has been delighted to work with a group from the community to bring the project to fruition".

The opening of the play area was enjoyed by many local residents and included: A parade of children that gathered on Rookery Drive to walk to the play area where Alison Pritchard, Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, made a short speech and then invited Carys to perform the ceremony, which was watched by Ward Councillor Mike Jones, Parish Councillors and representatives from the Church and Primary School.

Families enjoyed picnics; live band Mac Bros and Letters Out provided delicious Pimms and other refreshments. A variety of races took place and included the sprint, the egg and spoon and sack races. Parents took part in spirited tug of war competitions. Each side of the village



competed against the other and the same side was victorious in the men's and women's events!

Face painting, a Ceilidh and a Crowdfunding initiative raised a further sum and the money for the groundworks and drainage came from CWaC in the form of open space contributions from Redrow and from Burwardsley Parish Council.





## Parish Clerk Retires

At the end of April 2018, Jean Dutton retired from her position as Clerk to Tattenhall & District Parish Council, a post which she held for 33 years. During those years, she guided a succession of Chairs and Councillors through the processes and procedures necessary for the management of our large parish. The Parish Council has been involved in many pilots and initiatives over the last 15 years and Jean dealt with a wide variety of issues and officials on its behalf, obtaining information and resolving problems with persistence and determination.

Jean's knowledge of the powers which a Parish Council can exercise was encyclopaedic and proved useful on many occasions. Many Councillors have cause to be grateful to her for her experience and dedication to the role of Clerk. Her ability to produce required documents from her vast archive often proved invaluable.

In past years, Jean had some health issues but she remained committed to her job and it was only in March that she decided to take a well earned rest.

Parish Councillors, past and present, wished Jean a long and happy retirement and expressed the gratitude of the community for her long service.

### New Parish Clerk Recruited

The Parish Council was delighted to have been able to recruit Mrs Ann Wright to the position of Clerk. Ann was a Ward Councillor representing Malpas for some years, as well as working as a Parish Council Clerk for over 10 years to a number of Parish Councils. She has also worked with the Cheshire Association of Local Councils where she has run training courses on a variety of subjects, including planning. Ann's experience and knowledge will be of great value to Tattenhall & District Parish Council and Councillors extend a warm welcome to her.

## Tattenhall & District Community Land Trust (CLT)

Another busy year for the CLT, as the board continues their initial aim to provide 6 single occupancy, rental accommodation aimed at younger members of our community. The CLT is now registered with the Financial Conduct Authority as a Community Benefit Scheme. A CBS can best be described as a 'co-operative' where any profits made are reinvested into the CLT.

The Board has also worked with Cheshire Community Action (CCA) to initiate a Housing Needs Survey, helping to write the questions, provide publicity of its distribution, in September and encouraging participation. CCA have been working on its analysis, which is now complete and they hope to advise the community of its findings soon.

The board has been meeting architect practices and now have a final shortlist and are talking with Sanctuary Housing Association, owners of the land in Keysbrook Avenue where we intend to build. Sanctuary intend to write to their tenants, local to the sites, to gauge their opinions on our plans. The boards has also held initial talks with the Planning Department at Cheshire West and Chester. Currently a pre-Planning application is with them for their comment, we expect to hear their thoughts shortly.



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## Planning

Planning matters remain some of the most contentious and challenging issues that the Parish Council is required to make decisions on that are in the best interests of the individual and community.

During the last twelve months your Councillors have provided detailed comments on sixty one applications. Great care is taken to listen to and balance all the views presented to the Parish Council and to take account of national and local planning policies including the Tattenhall and District Neighbourhood Plan.

We look forward to working with the community during the next year to ensure we provide the best service possible.



## Community Pride Group Update

Our Community Pride Team has had a busy year!

We were instrumental in the Development and Grand opening of Tattenhall Play area, working alongside a group of young Mums (see separate article).

Our Village High street once again looked splendid in the summer months of last year with hanging baskets and tubs full of colour and bloom. Thank you to all who lovingly tend and water these for us.

Last December saw our first family Lantern Parade and it was wonderful to have so many joining us. Our first stop was in St Albans where we sang a couple of hymns before parading through the village to the Barbour Institute where we had hot chocolate and biscuits.

The evening continued with Carol singing in the Mill Field led by members of Tattenhall singers.

Our Village Christmas Market event at the Barbour Institute was a huge success again. Many thanks to all stall holders and the 'Wonderful School Choir' who sang for us.

Santa's Grotto was as popular as ever with children being entertained in a craft room which helped to minimise queuing and waiting times to visit Santa and receive their gifts.

As always our team were busy serving refreshments for a huge number of attendees at our annual memorial service in November 2017.

This coming November the Community Pride Group will be hosting a weekend full of events to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice. Keep your eyes peeled for further details.

## Community Safety Group Update

The Community safety group is currently working on two projects:

Operation Shield – is a Cheshire Police initiative which uses a state-of-the-art forensic liquid containing a DNA code unique to each property which can be used to mark belongings so it can be returned to the owner regardless of where it was recovered. This is due to be rolled out in Tattenhall Parish shortly by Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers. It has been paid for by Tattenhall Parish Council and a Members Budget Grant from Ward Councillor Mike Jones.

Speed Reduction Measures – the group is working with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) to introduce speed limits on many of the roads around the village. Speed Assessments have been carried out and consultations with residents on the affected roads will take place in the coming months. If you receive a form / letter please let us have your thoughts.

Also with CW&C we are looking again at the parking around the school as the new larger car-park becomes operational.

Future projects include reviewing the Community Resilience Plan and upgrading the High Street CCTV.

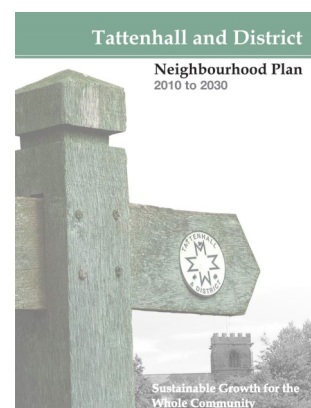


## Tattenhall & District Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan was made in June 2014 and by and large is working well. It is used by both the Parish Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council when considering planning applications in the Parish.

It was always intended that this be a living document and so it is coming up for review. One change being considered would be to re-designate the boundary to take into consideration the alterations made to the Parish Boundary by the Local Authority in 2015. The Parish Council understands that this process has been made simpler and is talking to the Legal and Spatial Planning Departments at Cheshire West and Chester Council to see how that affects this and any other changes we may consider making.

If you would like a copy of the Plan they can be collected from Tattenhall Library.



## Who knew ... What can your local Parish Council do?

### What TDPC can do...



#### Finance

- Define each year the charge (precept) that will be levied on residents as part of the council tax bill on your home, this is the PC's main source of income.
- All payments must be put to the PC.

#### Planning

- Create a Neighbourhood Plan which defines planning policies for our parish. This can influence CWAC (Cheshire West and Chester Council) decision making on planning applications.
- Review local planning applications and provide comments to CWAC. Applicants can ask advice of a PC prior to submitting and application and also can ask them to support their application. The PC can also in their comments take neighbours concerns into account.
- Speak at CWAC Planning Committee and Planning Enquiries.

#### Assets of Community Value

- Has the power to nominate and bid for assets of community value e.g. buildings and land

#### Responsibility to maintain certain areas in the Parish

- War Memorial, War Horse sculpture ('George' in Millfield), Glebe meadow (along with TWIG as consultants), Spinney, Millennium Mile footpath, Barnfield, Play Park ....as well as other assets such as: Village Sign, 6 Village boundary signs, 3 Bus Shelters, 4 Noticeboards, 9 cast iron litter bins, 3 pedestal litter bins, Interpretation sign in Glebe meadow, 6 village boundary signs, 13 dog fouling bins.
- Manage allotments
- Provide Christmas trees and support community events and initiatives.

### What TDPC doesn't do ...



- Make decisions outside Parish Council meetings.
- Spend money without the necessary statutory power.
- Approve local planning applications – that power rests with CWAC (Cheshire West and Chester Council)
- Empty public litter bins or manage household waste collections.
- Repair roads and pavements.
- Impose speed limits or parking restrictions.
- At Parish council meetings, discuss or decide any business which has not be formally included on the agenda.

**Did you know that you can access a large amount of information about planning at <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/planning-and-building-control.aspx>?**

You can find out about pre-application advice, planning policy, report dangerous structures as well as see planning applications and submit comments, you can also set up a profile so that you are notified of applications.

## A few more details about parish councils.....

There are 9000 Town and Parish Councils in England which serve over 16 million people and have a membership of around 80,000 councillors, investing over £1billion in communities each year.

- **Powers....**Parish Councils have a huge number of powers, both ancient and modern for example the Public Health Act 1875 (s164) provide Parish Councils with the power to create pleasure grounds, we also have the power to create public bath houses. More recently the Localism Act 2011 has given Parish Council powers to nominate and bid for assets of community value. So Parish Councils have the statutory power to do a huge number of things for their community but have very few things they have to do.
- **Finance....**Parish Councils are unique from community groups because they are a statutory body, one created by law and they have the power to precept, which means they can each year, set a charge which is levied on the residents of the Parish and is included on your Council tax bill. This money although collected by CW&C is paid to the Parish Council. Parish Councils can also apply for grants and will receive money through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is applied to new building but by and large the precept as it is known is the main source of income for a Council like Tattenhall.
- **Planning....**Parish Councils do not decide planning applications. That power rests in our case with CW&C Council but Parish Councils are in a good position to influence planning decisions in two ways.
  - 1) By working with their community to create Neighbourhood Plans which set planning policies locally which are used to decide planning applications. As you will know this is something Tattenhall was in the forefront of doing and the plan and its policies can be viewed at <https://tattenhallpc.co.uk/the-parish-council/the-neighbourhood-plan>
  - 2) By using local knowledge and planning policies from the Neighbourhood Plan and CW&C Local plan to submit comments for consideration by planning officers when deciding applications. The Parish Council can also speak at planning committees and planning inquiries.
- **People....**Anyone can be a Parish Councillor so long as they are 18 or over and can meet some or all of the criteria which can be found at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk). Parish Councils are elected every 4 years with the next 'all out elections' for Tattenhall in May 2019. If a vacancy occurs between elections a by-election can be called if that does not happen the Council is free to co-opt or appoint someone to fill the vacancy. The number of Councillors a Council has is set with Tattenhall having 15 councillors. Almost all Councils including Tattenhall employ a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) whose job it is to do the work of the Council, provide advice and support.

### So how can you find out more....

The best way to find out what Parish Councils do, is to attend their meetings or read their minutes. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public (although on some occasions part of the meeting may be closed to the public due to the confidential or sensitive nature of items being discussed) and include an open forum or public participation where members of the public can speak.

Tattenhall Parish council usually meets on the first Monday at 7.30pm in the Barbour Institute.

For more information please contact the Clerk to Tattenhall Parish Council, Ann Wright  
[tattenhallpc@outlook.com](mailto:tattenhallpc@outlook.com).



## *Meeting Dates 2018-2019*

Monday 4th June 2018  
 Monday 2nd July 2018  
 Monday 6th August 2018  
 Monday 3rd September 2018  
 Monday 1st October 2018  
 Monday 5th November 2018

Monday 3rd December 2018  
 Monday 7th January 2019  
 Monday 4th February 2019  
 Monday 4th March 2019  
 Monday 1st April 2019  
 Monday 13th May 2019 (Annual / First Meeting)

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month from 7.30pm at the Barbour Institute unless advertised differently.

Extraordinary meetings of the Council may also be called if required, and will be advertised on the Council's website and Council noticeboard.

All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and include public participation.

## *Meet Your Councillors....*

Patricia Black 22 Greenlands, Tattenhall, CH3 9QY Tel: 01829 770483 pat.black @cowanconsultants.co.uk	Georgina Blackhurst 17 Oaklands Avenue, Tattenhall CH3 9QU Tel: 01829 770377 randgblackhurst@gmail.com	Sheila Chapman The Old Manse, Rosemary Row, Tattenhall, CH3 9QB Tel: 01829 770960 Sheila.Chapman31 @hotmail.co.uk
Doug Haynes Walnut Tree House, Wood Lane, Tattenhall, CH3 9AD Tel: 01829 771400 dhaynes10@timetalk.co.uk	Lesley Jones Keysbrook House, Tattenhall Road, Tattenhall CH3 9QQ Tel: 01829 770112 lellyjones@icloud.com	Iain Keeping Flacca Lodge, Burwardsley Road, Tattenhall, CH3 9QF Tel: 01829 770935 iain.keeping @btopenworld.com
Jonathan Kershaw 1 Rosebank, High St, Tattenhall, CH3 9PR Tel: 01829 770381 kersh@aol.com	Neil P Matthews Poplar Hall Farm, Newton Lane, Gatesheath, Tattenhall, CH3 9AY Tel: 01829 770289 <u>neilmatthews@btinternet.com</u>	Alison Pritchard 10 Edgecroft, Tattenhall, CH3 9LN Tel: 07711 464 338 alisonpritchard10@gmail.com
Esther Sadler-Williams 10 Oaklands Avenue, Tattenhall, CH3 9QU Tel: 07908843073 esthersadlerwilliams @gmail.com	Andy Scarratt Parsley Woods, Newton by Tattenhall, Chester CH3 9BD Tel: 01829 770516 andy@scarratt.com	Norman Sharp Bridge Cottage, Tattenhall Rd, Newton by Tattenhall, CH3 9BD Tel: 01829 770566 (Day) 01829 770164 (Eve) Nmsmotorbodyrepairs @gmail.com
Graham Spencer 3 Northgate Utkinton, Tarporey, CW6 0LL Tel: 07917640068 avro56@icloud.com	Carol Weaver 3 Northgate Utkinton Tarporey CW6 0LL Tel: 07730405913 carol53weaver@gmail.com	Lisa White 3 Gorsefield, Tattenhall, CH3 9HB Tel: 07926147449 lisawhite27@live.co.uk

For more information contact the Clerk:

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