

# Notes of Open Space Working Group Meeting Boys Room, Barbour Institute 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## **PRESENT**

### Parish Council

Iain Keeping, Cindy Parry, Ann Wright (Clerk)

### Bolesworth Estate

Carol Rouse

### Cheshire West & Chester Council

Pam Bradley, Rural Localities Manager.

## **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was agreed Iain Keeping would chair the working group.

## **LAND IDENTIFICATION & REQUIREMENTS**

It was noted that since 2011 CW&C have produced 2 separate reports using different (complex) methodology which have identified a need for additional open space in Tattenhall.

The 2011 report identified Gorsefield as being underused and as a priority.

It was thought development of this site was unlikely due to the narrow access path.

Action – Pam Bradley to investigate what plans there are for this land.

The more recent report which informed the Local Plan Part 2 looked at overall provision for Tattenhall as a service centre and made no mention of Gorsefield. The report concluded all rural service centres are underprovided for in terms of open space.

The report stated there were no allotments within Tattenhall, it was noted that was not true as there are allotments off Bolesworth Road. (The Gatesheath Allotments are outside Tattenhall).

Action - Pam Bradley confirmed she would try to obtain a bigger copy of the map used in the report and also find out how the report can be updated.

It was noted the report is only a snap shot of the situation at the time when the report is written.

It was not clear what the definition was of recreation ground in the report.

It was noted the loss of approximately 2 hectares of heavily used play and open space to the Primary School had been acutely felt by the community and there was continued pressure of the Parish Council to find alternative land for informal sport and recreation.

It was noted there is a football pitch and cricket pitch at the Flacca which is run and managed by Sport Tattenhall, in the past people have been dissuaded from using the football pitch for 'kickabouts' due to the wear and tear caused as the pitch is used for league matches.

It was noted that access to a large area of land in or near Tattenhall is very limited.

It was noted a letter had been sent to the Primary School requesting access to the playing field outside school times, possibly on a trial basis over the summer holiday. The school had confirmed they were unable to fully reply to this request until the Governors next met in September but that it was not possible to allow access over the summer for health and safety reasons. No further response has been received to date.

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The importance of dog walker for health and wellbeing was noted, particularly for older residents.

It was noted policy DM36 of the Local Plan Part 2, play and pitch strategy seeks to increase access to open space by increasing access to school playing fields etc by communities.

It was asked if there was currently any 'dog parks' in CW&C.

Action - Pam Bradley agreed to investigate this.

It was noted due to its isolated nature Gorsefields would not be suitable as a dog park.

It was noted that Bolesworth owns the majority of land in and around Tattenhall but do not sell land, it was also noted that all their land is currently occupied by tenants who are using or working the land.

Action – Clerk to contact Sport Tattenhall to arrange a meeting with the working group to discuss the Council's and their vision for the future.

Caldy Valley Nature Park was given as an excellent example of open space and it was suggested there is land near the Redrow estate which could be developed in this way and linked to footpaths to the marina, ice cream farm etc.

It was agreed this type of project could attract grant funding and youth involvement.

It was noted that this area of land is identified in the Local Plan Part 2 for development of houses if Tattenhall does not achieve its housing numbers.

It was suggested the Spinney could be developed in the same way as the nature park and the green space next to it could also be utilised more.

It was noted that CW&C have a 'Time Credit Scheme' where volunteers on projects can earn credits toward vouchers for activities.

Action – Pam Bradley to arrange a site meeting with Caldly Valley Nature Park rangers to look at what would be possible at the Spinney and also the green space next to it.

The Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**  
TBC

Ann Wright 19/09/2019