

Minutes of Tattenhall & District Parish Meeting Held 20th September 2023 at the Barbour Institute.

PRESENT

Councillors

Chairman – N. Matthews

P. Black R. Carden P. Clark D. Darnborough C. Elliott M. Foster

I. Keeping A. Scarratt R. Smith

Clerk – Ann Wright

CW&C Cllr Mike Jones.

Public – approx. 50

Welcome

The Chairman of the meeting Neil Matthews welcomed all to the meeting.

Chairman's Report 2022-2023

Cllr Keeping, 2022-2023 Chairman gave a summary of his report for the year which can be found in the Annual Report¹.

Plastic Free Tattenhall

Helen Tandy from Sustainable Cheshire reported that Chester had been awarded plastic free Status in 2018 and now the organisation is working towards Plastic Free Cheshire. Seven communities including Tattenhall have taken up the challenge to reduce the use of single use plastic in their areas.

Helen Tandy presented Yvonne Keeping with a certificate from Surfers against Sewage in recognition of the work in the community to reduce the use of single use plastic. It was noted 3 Companies within the village had been awarded plaques for their reduction in plastic usage: Alison's Country Kitchen, No. 3 Chip Shop, Yew Tree Farm.

Presentation

Neil Matthews presented Cllr Iain Keeping with a small gift to thank him for all his hard work as Chairman for the last 5 years including during the pandemic and his leadership of the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

Cheshire Blood Bikers

Graham Weatherhead introduced himself as being from Shropshire, Stafford and Cheshire Blood Bikers. He explained the Blood Bikers are a charity which delivers emergency equipment for the NHS.

The origin of the Blood Bikers goes back to 1962 when Margaret Ryerson set up a group of volunteers to try and dispel the bad impression that Mods and Rockers had created. There are now 32 Blood Bike Charities across the UK and Ireland.

In 2014 the Staffordshire and Shropshire Blood Bikers had 10 volunteers and 2 Bikes. They now cover Cheshire and have 350 volunteers and 13 Bikes.

They take deliveries to and from hospitals, hospices and community nurses and support the NHS. They are not government funded and rely on fundraising to undertake their work.

They carry pretty much anything which will fit on a motorbike excluding organs for transplants. They can also organise relay deliveries between the different branches

¹ <https://tattenhallpc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/AnnualReport2023.pdf>

to move things across the country, for example Bristol to Newcastle.

To become a blood biker, you need to undergo a strict induction and training process.

In 2022 the Shropshire, Stafford and Cheshire Blood Bikers undertook 6200 jobs, 370 were transporting blood products, 4700 were samples, the charity covered 321k miles.

3 of the motorbikes are replaced each year when their mileage reaches 60k. The Charity expects to spend £88k this year.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Update

Andrew Hull from the Sandstone Ridge Trust provided the following update:

Sandstone Ridge Trust

The Sandstone Ridge Trust was created 13 years ago to manage legacy projects from the Habitats and Hill Forts project. During this time projects have been funded through grants and from Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Councils along with other bodies however over the years as the public purse has been reduced the funding available has also been reduced and it has become clear that one way to protect the area is by its designation as an AONB which is a designation below that of a National Park.

It was noted the area is classified by Natural England as Natural Character area 62.

Government & Process

In 2018 the Government undertook a Landscape Review the report from which stated the Country should have more protected Landscapes, the review process included a visit to the area. The Report suggested that there is a potential for more AONB being identified and named the Sandstone Ridge.

A following Green Paper which is part of the 'Leveling Up' agenda identified that a lot of people do not have access to protected landscapes particularly when living in urban centres.

The Sandstone Ridge has now been identified as a candidate for AONB designation. There is still a complex process to go through which is being led by Natural England and during which the candidate areas can be removed from the process.

The process evaluates the area on a number of different levels or layers and these assessments are being undertaken by expert consultants and consider the following:

- Landscape features
- Scenic features
- Wildness
- Tranquility
- Natural heritage
- Cultural heritage
- Area to be covered, noting the area may not be Natural Character area 62, it may include or exclude different areas. It is expected an announcement will be made on the area early in 2024.

Once the boundary has been identified and approved by Natural England there will be a 6-month public consultation period the results of which will be submitted to the Government for a final decision.

Cheshire is the only county which does not have a nationally protected landscape which is wholly within the county.

The designation has the support of both Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East Councils as well as Parish Councils, large landowners and many other stake holders.

It was confirmed that a large amount of information including frequently asked questions, can be found on the project on the Sandstone Ridge Trust website at <https://www.sandstoneridge.org.uk/aonb-recommendation.html>

Concerns & Advantages

Planning – Planning applications will still be considered by the Local Authority as part of the local planning regime. There is likely to be additional restrictions on major infrastructure development for example solar farms, wind farms, and fracking. It is also expected that larger developments will be given additional consideration as a result of any AONB designation.

Farming – It was noted that there is additional funding for farms in protected landscapes, particularly when providing access, educational and conservation projects.

Footfall – The AONB designation would result in increased footfall to the area. However, the funding which comes along with the designation would employ 3 or 4 full-time officers who would create a management plan to address issues and maintain the area.

Benefits – it is recognised the designation would support the visitor economy of the area and help promote green tourism in the County.

Open up accessibility to the countryside will also contribute to wellbeing and health sign posting more people to the Countryside.

Other Comments – It was noted the areas managed by the National Trust would continue to be managed by the National Trust who are key stakeholders in the process and are very supportive of the designation.

It was agreed it would make sense if a railways station was opened between Chester or Crewe either by the ice cream farm or at Beeston, and this would allow people to access the area by train.

Greater protection of the area from inappropriate development was welcomed.

It was noted that not all sections of the Sandstone Trail and Ridge are currently accessible without access to a car. However, it is hoped the designation will over time improve this situation.

Presentation of Awards

Certificates were awarded to the following people having been nominated by residents:

Peter Williams – For undertaking a wide range of maintenance around the village including benches, noticeboards and also for the maintenance of the church gates.

Alison Clark – For organising the recent Garage Trail Sale.

Annie Forster – For her support for Tattenhall junior football club.

The Village Cup 2023 was presented to Martin Chalk who received a large number of nominations all of which highlighting his contribution to the village over the years, particularly his works with Transition Tattenhall and Tattenhall Allotments where he has worked with the Committee to create an accessible environment for all. He has also supported the 'Growing Children' initiative getting young children interested and motivated in growing plants working with Sandy Bears and the Primary School.

The Chairman of the meeting thanked all for attending the meeting.

Ann Wright 26/09/2023