

## **Chairman's Report Crewe Green Parish Council**

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Perhaps the most important aspect of our work this last year is our continuing surveillance of developments that threaten the erosion of the Green Gap. resulting in the urbanisation of the hamlet and overwhelming of the conservation area.

To this end we have closely monitored Cheshire East's various incarnations of its Strategic Plan and made representations directly and through the good offices of our County Councillors when our local environment has been so endangered.

As one of the smallest parishes in Cheshire East your Parish Council decided that we had not the resources neither of manpower or finance to embark upon the preparation of a local plan that could stand up to the professional expertise available to developers.

Fortunately Cheshire East Council seems broadly sympathetic and supportive of our views and of neighbouring parishes.

The old strategy framework of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council before its abolishment envisaged that the Haslington By-pass and its continuation, now University Way, would be the limit of expansion in our direction. Unfortunately pressures brought by developers have eroded this and almost all of University Way has been developed on both sides. The developments on the south side has consisted largely of warehousing with low value jobs and noise levels which have impinged unpleasantly upon the Hamlet especially outside the working day when noise travels more obviously.

There have been further attempts to obtain changes to the categorisation of the remaining area firstly for housing and then for more low value warehousing which would imping further upon the special qualities of the hamlet and conservation area.

The current designation provides is ideally suited for the kind of high tech, high value employment area that will be at a premium as Crewe Develops as envisaged in the Strategic Plan. It would also minimise any impact upon the hamlet with little noise generation especially at weekends and outside the normal working day. We have strongly expressed these views to Cheshire East but are led to believe that our objections are about to be over-ruled

Other infrastructure projects such as Sydney Bridge and the enlarged Crewe Green round-about have been presented to the Parish Council following which members forwarded their views to the public consultation. I personally have some concerns about the ease of entry from Haslington/Crewe Green at peak times but have been assured the simulations do not indicate a problem. I trust that will be the case.

Traffic along the B5077 and Slaughter Hill continue to present problems. The B5077 is arguably not fit for purpose given the narrowness, particularly along Narrow Lane, given the increase volume of traffic and the size of some of the vehicles now transiting.

Slaughter Hill is troublesome especially at the very narrow bottleneck at its entry into Haslington. Various means of alleviating the latter problem have been considered. These largely involved restricting heavy vehicles to Narrow Lane but doing so would merely transfer the problem to another already problematic site. Experiments were made in routing buses along Narrow Lane but this resulted in damage to mirrors and buses having to mount pavements as well as reducing services to Haslington. The current proposal of a lay-by on Slaughter Hill is intended to allow large vehicles especially buses to stagger their entrance to the pinch point.

The Parish Council at various times has had perennial difficulties in recruiting councillors although currently we only lack one. Suggestions at various times have been made that perhaps we should combine with Haslington but that has been rejected whilst we can maintain a quorum. I personally have supported this Parish Council since my time as a Borough Councillor. Although we have much in common with our neighbouring parish which is considerably larger, not everything perfectly aligns but where it does it gives another voice to strengthen presentations to County level. Haslington is very supportive which of course we reciprocate.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their support and efforts during the past year.

It is invidious to mention individuals because everyone has contributed but I would like to mention:

Roy Spruce, for his diligence and professionalism in scrutinising planning policy and planning applications.

Gerald Twiss, for dealing with lighting and electricity which is often a frustrating task. I wish for Gerald that his treatment at Leighton will produce a speedy recovery.

David and Alex. For their rural knowledge of the area.

Our County Councillors David Marren and John Hammond, who have been most helpful in conveying our concerns and keeping us in touch with County matters.

David is of course also a member of our Parish Council and illuminates our discussions with his knowledge of the background issues.

And last but most certainly not least my wife Anne who keeps me on the straight and narrow with if necessary a well-aimed kick under the table which I usually deserve

Cllr. Don Rickard

Chairman