



# Upton by Chester & District Parish Council COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2017

## COUNCIL TAX CUTS FOR UPTON RESIDENTS

Upton residents will receive a cut in part of their council tax bill this year, following a decision by Upton by Chester Parish Council to cut the parish precept by 5.7%.

The Parish Council is committed to delivering value for money and good quality community services, without charging residents more in council tax.

We have been able to give residents a council tax cut because of strong financial management and more people using our popular pavilion and its increasingly high quality facilities.

The council tax cut will be combined with improvements to local amenities and we have identified several key projects to invest in all parts of Upton.

These projects will be funded using approximately £76,000 of existing reserves and includes:

- Bowling green – a new shelter, path, ditch and boards.
- Pavilion – increasing capacity by the conversion of storeroom to meeting room and adding external storage.
- Chemistry Pits – restoring the footpath and improving drainage.
- QE II Playing Fields – setting aside funds towards building a new cycle path.

The projects have been chosen as they will benefit residents across Upton and the improvements to these facilities will potentially attract visitors from other areas. The Parish Council is committed to investing in local amenities and welcomes any feedback from residents, including ideas for future projects and investment across Upton, to make this the best place to live in Chester.

### UPTON ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
7.00pm

At Upton High School Library Hub

Guest Speaker from St John  
Ambulance

Upton Parish Council Annual  
Report

Refreshments



All welcome



**20 MPH SPEED LIMITS IN UPTON – UPDATE**  
**“THE CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER BOROUGH**  
**COUNCIL ORDER 2017”.**

The above traffic regulation order came into force on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

The following roads in Upton now have a 20mph speed limit in force:  
Aldford Road, Alpraham Crescent, Appleton Road, Arley Close, Arradon Court, Bolesworth Road, Breton Close, Chirk Close, Cornwall Road, Cotebrook Drive, Cotswolds Close, Cross Green, Dorfold Way, Dorset Road, Dukesway, Dunham Way, Gatesheath Drive, Glastonbury Avenue, Halton Road, Handford Road, Harbour Close, Iver Close, Iver Road, Lakeside Close, Longfield Avenue, Marina Drive, Marl Heys, Marlowe Avenue, Newhall Court, Newhall Road, Oulton Avenue, Peckforton Way, Queens Crescent, Ruston Drive, Shipbrook Road, Shocklach Road, St James Avenue, Tewksbury Close, Tintern Avenue, Wealstone Lane (from 34m south east of its junction with Neston Drive to its junction with Heath Road), Weston Grove, Woburn Drive and Woodlea Avenue.



After a period when progress was slow, the steering group for the NDP, comprising councillors and local residents, is working hard to get across the vision we have developed for 'Our Upton 2030'.

A video is being completed, which gives a brief history of Upton over the years and which will be used to help all of us to focus on the ways in which we want Upton to develop and also the ways in which we do not want it to change.

Our vision statement is available on the website and also at the Pavilion and the Library.

We describe it as...

***'a pleasant, predominantly residential area, that provides a secure and sustainable environment for its inhabitants' and is both part of the wider urban area of Chester but with a distinctive character as a former village settlement, protected by Green Belt, with local access to open spaces and countryside'***

...and would like you to have a look at the whole vision when you are able to.

Local groups were invited to an evening at the Pavilion in February, where a video was shown and participants were able to give their views on the major aspects the Neighbourhood Plan needs such as: housing for our area, the future of the major employers and their land, the Zoo, the Dale Camp and the Hospital.

The plan is our chance to ensure that what happens in Upton as far as planning is concerned, is what we feel Upton needs rather than what is thrust upon us from outside.

If your group was not invited or was unable to attend please feel free to contact us via the clerk, to find out more or to make comments.

We have been recruiting local residents to help us develop and submit the plan.

If you would like to help, please contact one of your Parish Councillors or the clerk – [clerk@uptonbychester.org.uk](mailto:clerk@uptonbychester.org.uk).

**CHEMISTRY PITS**

A number of residents attended the February meeting of the Parish Council to offer their ideas and suggestions as to how Chemistry Pits field could be improved and how the area could be better utilised once improvements such as drainage have been made.

A small working group consisting of parish councillors and resident representatives have met to discuss how a "Friends of Chemistry Pits" group could be formed and to agree its formal constitution.

Once established, all nearby residents (and other users of the field) will be invited to join. One priority for the "Friends" group will be to decide whether the name "Chemistry Pits" should remain or be replaced with something more appropriate.

In 1931, the field was gifted to the children of Upton in perpetuity by Sir John Frost.

**COUNTESS OF CHESTER COUNTRY PARK**

The country park located in Upton next to the Countess Hospital is fully open for the local community to enjoy. Weekend Park Runs are well attended. A series of pathways are wide enough for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users to share. Very recently, a major effort was made to plant many new trees in the park thus enhancing its reputation as one of Chester's finest areas for enjoyment and relaxation.

**SAVE THE DATE...**

Don't forget the Upton Annual Fete will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September – we do hope you will join us. If you would like to be involved or for further information please contact Darren Flaherty on 01244 374054



## UNCONVENTIONAL GAS EXTRACTION

The working party tasked with looking into a policy for UGE met recently, after making a recommendation to the Parish Council, it was decided that the following consultation procedure would go ahead:

A summary of the Parish Council's draft UGE Policy will be sent out to all Upton by Chester households via this newsletter (check if you have received your copy in this newsletter). If you have any comments to make on the draft policy, please complete in the space provided on the consultation document and post back to the clerk or drop it into Upton Pavilion. Alternatively you may like to email your comments directly to the clerk – [clerk@uptonbychester.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@uptonbychester.gov.uk).

In 1919 Earl Douglas Haig visited Chester to be made Honorary Freeman of the City. At lunch with Mayor Sir John Frost and The Lady Mayoress at Upton Lawn, the Earl planted an oak tree raised from an acorn brought from the WW1 battlefields of Verdun, France – it was known locally as 'Earl's Oak'.

1<sup>st</sup> July 1941 a Miles Master plane (N7833), flown by Sgts H A Womack and J M Milmine from 57 OTU, was low flying over Upton and hit a tree and a house in Mill Lane. Womack was an American volunteer. Sadly both pilots died and are buried in Harwarden. It is thought that the student pilot was showing off to a girlfriend who lived in the area.



We have a new website! The Parish Council has been working with Upton resident/photographer/graphic designer Bob Hadfield, to produce what we hope you will agree is an impressive, informative and user friendly website. If you belong to a community group which would like to provide a link or contact details to be included on the new website, please contact the clerk.

[www.uptonbychester.org.uk](http://www.uptonbychester.org.uk)



## DOG FOULING

The Parish Council would like to remind dog owners that when using the QE II playing fields at Wealstone Lane they should have their dog on a lead at all times. Warning signs are well positioned next to the tennis courts but some dog owners are still not adhering to the law. There is a maximum £1,000 penalty, the dog warden patrols on a regular basis and local police officers often visit the pavilion. It is much harder to ensure that all dog waste is picked up when dogs are running free and children who use the field are exposed to the danger of diseases. Dog waste bags are available from the pavilion. If you fail to pick up after your dog, you will be asked to leave. Please be a considerate dog walker.



## FLORAL DISPLAY

Last year we were very lucky when Upton Horticultural Society accepted the Parish Council's invitation to design and plant the flowerbed at the entrance to the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields. Many residents said how much they enjoy looking at the flowers on their way to the pavilion, library and doctors' surgery, or just in passing. It really cheered people up to see such a colourful, well-tended display. Horticultural Society members are very knowledgeable, enthusiastic and generous with their time. Hopefully we will all benefit from their 'horticultural magic' again in the future.



**SECURITY AT QE II**

In order to secure the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields and car park against trespassers and unauthorised visitors, the Parish Council has taken steps to add security equipment to the car park entrance and to improve the security of Upton Library car park so that both can be locked as necessary, but will remain linked to allow a better flow of vehicles in and out of the car park. We have installed several bollards across the grass verge and an overhead height restriction barrier that will allow access for car parking by legitimate users of the car park who are visiting the pavilion, library or doctors surgery but not to coaches, lorries or caravans.



**YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS:**

**BACHE**

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**MOSTON**

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**UPTON GRANGE**

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**UPTON HEATH**

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**UPTON PARK**

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Cllr Adrian Walmsley (Chairman), 07710 583513.  
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**PAVILION OPENING HOURS:**

Monday – Sunday  
9am to 5pm, until 1<sup>st</sup>  
April 2017 then,  
Monday – Sunday  
10am to 9pm.

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

For pavilion room hire, playing fields, tennis courts and bowling please call the office on 01244 374054 or email [uptonbychesterpavilion@hotmail.com](mailto:uptonbychesterpavilion@hotmail.com).

**A NEW FLAG POLE**

Flying the flag for Upton by Chester and District Parish Council.



**Upton by Chester Parish Council wants your views on our local area**

We are always keen to hear what residents think about Upton. Do you have any ideas for our area or is there anything you'd like to bring to our attention? Get in touch by completing this tear off slip and return to: Upton Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton CH2 1HB. Alternatively contact the clerk on 07584 415343.

Name  
Address

Phone number

Email address

Large empty rectangular box for residents to provide contact information and feedback.