



your Upton



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD

uptonbychester.org.uk

THE UPTON-BY-CHESTER & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Your Parish Needs You!

Upton Parish Council (UPC) has always welcomed parishioners with a real interest in what a parish council does and especially those who have the time to help us with our work, so the interest taken recently by a number of local residents in our meetings and what we hope to achieve has been potentially a shining light for democracy.

Some members of the community do feel frustrated, however, that they are not able to join in the discussion at official Parish Council meetings.

Of course, that is not possible, since the UPC is an elected body, which is empowered to make decisions on specific aspects of local life, such as playgrounds, sports facilities and how the wider system impacts on pavements, traffic and development as a whole. While we do not

have specific power over these, we are able to influence them in interaction with other bodies and councils.

In response to eager residents wanting to help, UPC has set up 'community engagement' meetings, to which residents are invited along with councillors, the Chairman being the host and using Microsoft Teams as a meeting platform, the first meeting was held on February 25th at 7.30pm. We welcome topics for discussion at these meetings.

Interest from residents in our work will be warmly welcomed and interest in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has given rise to much of the discussion about how things are done in the parish by both elected and unelected residents. The meeting of minds in this way can only be helpful if everyone knows what their role as resident or councillor, or both, entails. With good will and common sense, however, we should be a stronger group together.

BE AWARE

Sadly there has been another act of vandalism on playground equipment at the QE11 play area on Wealstone Lane. This last episode saw broken glass spread around the playground. Not only is this a danger to children using the area but is costly to the community.

WANTED

Members of a local community group are taking forward a pilot to identify opportunities and barriers to active, sustainable travel in Upton, such as walking, cycling and public transport.

If you are interested in joining the pilot team, please be sure to email ubccg@outlook.com, outlining your vision for sustainable transport options for our local area.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF YOUR COMMUNITY THE N.D.P.



Residents of Upton, Bache and Moston will all shortly have the chance to vote on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which has been created by Upton by Chester & District Parish Council working with a team of local residents.

Consultation is currently ongoing and will continue until March 22nd. If you haven't already expressed your views, please do so without delay, so that we can have the widest possible spread of views across our local area.

You can get further information or respond on paper in a 'Covid secure' way by phoning the Neighbourhood Plan team on

mobile number 07734 768 147.

Cllr Jean Evans, Chair of the NDP team has pointed out the importance of this plan to our area's future, saying "Our plan for the future is a genuine chance to influence the way the Upton area will develop over the next ten years."

Following the consultation, the plan will be revised and then checked by an examiner and, if found valid, will go to the people of Upton in a referendum in the autumn.

Please support our chance to improve our area for the future!



Have your say on the **Neighbourhood Development Plan**. Go to...

www.uptonbychester.org.uk/consultation-information--plan.html

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO THIS PAST YEAR?



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Despite a challenging year, not all Parish Council activity stopped. Read about what we got up to.

MARCH 2020

Like the rest of the nation we battened down the hatches for the Coronavirus crisis. Upton Pavilion and the QE II Playing Field facilities had to temporarily close. Staff were shielded and parish council meetings were moved to a virtual platform.

APRIL & MAY

We applied for and received £3,000 from Cheshire West & Chester Council (CW&C) towards community aid projects. Members of the council were also involved in setting up a community hub for the collection and distribution of supplies to those in need.

JUNE & JULY

The QE II playing field proved to be more popular than ever during the good weather! Many Upton residents took their daily exercise on the field. Upton Pavilion, meanwhile, was re-opened to staff to provide shop and toilet facilities to our visitors.

AUGUST

We worked with the national Citizens Service to provide a place for young people to get involved in local community projects.

Three teams of 15 volunteers attended over a three week period and with great enthusiasm to improve the Upton environment!

OCTOBER

Local PCSO Jenna Tapley invited the Parish Council to make suggestions for local community projects to benefit from a grant of £1,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) fund. We considered the provision of a new youth club in Upton, and a working party of CW&C...

OCTOBER (CONTD.)

... officers and Upton representatives was set up. The group was successful in applying for a £1,000 Parish Council grant towards setting up costs. This was offered as match funding in securing the PCC grant application – an application now successful.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Remembrance Day was commemorated with Cllr Tom Egerton-Parry laying a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

In December we used our Christmas budget to erect a large Christmas tree in a place where it could be shared by residents.



2020/21 IN REVIEW

JANUARY 2021

We continue with a project to improve the QE II field, playground, tennis courts and bowling green with hopes to refurbish and extend the playground in the near future. We also approved our draft budget for 2021/22. Precept set at £111,380.

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUR QE II FACILITIES

Here's a synopsis of our current efforts and projects from the QE II Improvements Committee by quarter (Q3 = third quarter).

- Q3 2017:** QE II Committee formed and priorities identified.
- Q4 2017:** FA Report regarding football pitches.
- Q1 2018:** Consultation regarding QEII facilities began with residents and stakeholders including CW&C.
- Q2 2018:** Five year Programme agreed and consultation data analysed
- Q3 2018:** Playground Project Manager agreed and appointed
- Q4 2018:** Playground requirements chosen & costed. Outline plan for funding submitted to Community Fund (Lottery). Engagement with Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) began.
- Q1 2019:** Apply for grant funding from the lottery (unsuccessful). Investigations into the LTA & Clubspark system.
- Q2 2019:** Meetings with UTC & LTA regarding tennis court improvements.
- Q3 2019:** Drainage Feasibility Study carried out.
- Q4 2019:** Drainage report established. Nowhere to drain the excess water to. Tree planting agreed and possible pond extension discussed.
- Q4 2020/
Q1 2021:** Apply for grant funding for the playground.
Apply for flood lighting planning permission.
Apply for grant funding for the booking and lock system for the tennis courts.
Apply for 0% interest loan from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), over 7 years.

CONTACT

[facebook.com/UPCNow](https://www.facebook.com/UPCNow)

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Upton-by-Chester Pavilion,
Wealstone Lane, CH2 1HD



TENNIS COURT NEWS

In February a planning application for the installation of tennis court floodlights was submitted by the Parish Council. If approved - and in conjunction with a new electronic gate and online booking system, this will be an important project for the long-term upkeep of the tennis courts and one that will lead to the tennis courts being available to more players for an extended period each day.

DATE FOR YOUR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 15 April, 7.30PM

Community Engagement Meeting (#2) and Annual Parish Meeting

An opportunity to speak frankly and fairly about how our community can be made a better place.

Julie Derbyshire of City Fibre will also be in attendance, giving a talk on Chester's 'digital transformation'.

Details on how to attend will be available from the Parish Council website: [uptonbychester.org.uk](https://www.uptonbychester.org.uk)

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Bache

Frank Samuel

Moston

Jodie Egerton-Parry

Upton Grange

Alison Bennion

Suzanne Booth

Peter Greenhalgh

Jilly Houlbrook

Gary Hulmes

Upton Heath

Matt Bryan

Matt Carter

Mike Keenan

Jakub Schmidt

Nicki Poulton

Brenda Southward

Ben Walker

Upton Park:

Tom Egerton-Parry

Jean Evans