



Upton by Chester & District Parish Council COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Save the date:
Upton Fest, 27 May
Upton Pavilion Fun
Day, 15 September



SPRING 2018

DELIVERING VALUE FOR MONEY

Once again, Upton residents will receive a cut in part of their council tax bill this year after Upton by Chester and District Parish Council voted to cut the Parish precept by 4 %.

The Parish Council remains committed to delivering value for money and high quality facilities for the community.

Over the last year, we have continued to invest in projects, installing a new Bowling Green shelter and improvements to the path and converting space at Upton Pavilion into a new meeting room.

These projects were funded using existing reserves and have enabled us to offer better facilities and encourage more visitors.

The Parish Council continues to invest in local amenities and we welcome feedback from residents, including ideas for future projects and investment across Upton.

PROJECTS FOR 2018

The Parish Council is working on several projects during 2018, including the Queen Elizabeth II playground refurbishment – check out our plans on page 2



CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING EVENT

For the first time on 13th December we hosted a Christmas carol singing event at Upton Pavilion.

Players from Buckley Brass Band accompanied Upton residents and members of the Parish Council in singing a selection of traditional Christmas carols. Despite the truly awful weather, adults and children huddled together under gazebos and sung with great cheer.

The Parish Council provided a welcome cup of mulled wine or hot chocolate along with mince pies and cake.



PAVILION ANGEL

Parish Council staff member Pete Griffiths put his creative talent to good use to make this fantastic 'Upton Pavilion' angel. The angel was displayed in Upton Reformed Church as part of its Festival of Angels. Donations and sales raised £260 for the Guide Dogs.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLAYING FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS AND REFURBISHMENTS

A QE II sub-committee was formed in September 2017 to initiate improvements to the Parish Council sports and recreation facilities. This is to be specifically aimed at the Wealstone Lane area but an improved path at Chemistry Pits has been put in place.

It was decided to prioritise the improvements as follows:

1. Children's Playground – equipment and floor surface.
2. Tennis court surface, lighting and fencing.
3. Football pitch drainage.
4. M.U.G.A. (multi use games area).
5. Multi-functional path circuit, including low level lighting.
6. Outdoor gym equipment.

In order to finance such aspiration the Parish Council has a small ring fenced pot of money that will enable us to access grant funding.

The Parish Council has been previously successful in attaining a grant for the patio to the side and rear of the Pavilion, however, in order to improve our chances of another successful application, the Parish Clerk will attend training in due course. The Parish Council is committed to consulting with Upton residents. Over the Easter holidays several sessions were held for people to drop into the Pavilion to discuss this project with Councillors and staff. Paper and pencils were made available for those who preferred to draw their 'wish list'. We would still like to hear more about what you would like at the QE II Playing Fields and we value your comments and suggestions regarding the proposed improvements.



DATES FOR THE DIARY
MONDAY 21 MAY – ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
SUNDAY 27 MAY – UPTON FEST
SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER – UPTON PAVILION FUN DAY
SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER – REMEMBRANCE PARADE
WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS CAROLS
DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS MARKET tbc

POLICE AT THE PAVILION

We are very pleased to have a great working relationship with local police officers PCSO Jenna Tapley and PC Rob Brown. If a recent Cheshire Police initiative to make more use of local venues goes ahead, we can look forward to seeing more of them. In the future, it may also be possible for Upton residents to make contact with police at the pavilion.



PLANNING IN UPTON BY CHESTER

The Parish Council continues to keep a careful eye on all planning applications applicable to the Upton area.

Meetings of the Council's Planning Committee are convened where it is considered that a particular application will be of special interest to Upton residents.

Recent major applications discussed include changes to the access/egress of Morrison's supermarket which has since been approved and the proposed White Gables housing development adjacent to The Beeches and Upton High School.



When Brooke Avenue was built in the 1930s it was thought the name 'Brooke' was taken from the fact there is an underground water course running along Long Lane and across the junction of the road. But actually the name 'Brooke' was the middle name of the developer Thomas Brooke Edwards.

UPTON HIGH SCHOOL

Upton Parish Council has been made aware that our high school could benefit from a high level of investment in the fabric of the building. As with our homes that need a programme of maintenance, so do our public buildings.

Accordingly, your Parish Council has written a letter to the Secretary of State in support of the school's request for finance to undertake refurbishment.

The fabric of the building is the responsibility of the local authority which receives money from the government for this purpose.

However, the Parish Council would wish to support the school in seeking action in this matter.

Many children from the parish attend Upton High School for their senior school education, so you will know that the school continues to deliver good academic results for the students in our community.



In the last newsletter we outlined the areas that will be addressed in the Neighbourhood Development Plan, such as allocation of sites, developing open spaces, pedestrian and cycle links and protecting our heritage.

This has been followed up by a leaflet, which is entitled 'Upton Fake News' to generate thought about the situations which can arise when local planning is not carefully and fully consulted on.

This should have been delivered with the Inside Upton Handbook, to all Upton households. If this is not the case, please contact the Clerk on 07584 415343 or at clerk@uptonbychester.org.uk.

Consultation with assorted groups in Upton is now well under way. We have begun talking to as many businesses in the area as possible, to get their views on the pros and cons of running a business in Upton and on what changes or improvements might be helpful for success.

Members of the Steering Group which is leading the neighbourhood plan are working on specific areas. A housing group for instance is looking at the variety of types of housing available in Upton, to find out the area's needs for new or refurbished housing and where it might best be located, and consulting with the Borough Council and housing trusts to ensure that the policies developed are based on sound evidence.

One important link with CW&C Council relates to the Local Plan, which is in the process of completion, so that we can work along lines that make our plan compatible with it, in regard to the major issues and employers, such as the Zoo, the Dale Camp and the Hospital, since the Neighbourhood Plan must not be at variance with the Local Plan or it will not get through the inspection by government.

We have been fortunate in recruiting local residents to help with the plan, with both professional expertise and offers of practical help.

If you would like to join us please contact us at np@uptonbychester.org.uk or visit our Facebook page *Your Upton 2030*.

UPTON PAVILION FUN DAY

The next Upton Pavilion Fun Day will be held on Saturday 15th September. Each year the event has been bigger and better than the previous one. This year there will be all your favourite stalls and activities, along with some new ones.



There will be food, drinks and entertainment, also rides, face painting, craft activities and games. Once again, entrance free! This year we are looking to make the day even better and would like to involve as many community groups as possible – you may like to showcase what you do or sell items your group makes?

If you would like a pitch, whether you are a community group wanting to raise funds, a private concern wanting to sell items or promote its business, please contact us.

Upton residents with ideas or a request for something to be added to the day, please let us know and we will try hard to deliver!

To find out the cost of a pitch or for more information, please contact Darren Flaherty on 01244 374054.



DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Parish Council recently publicised the Cheshire West and Chester Council Dog Control Order consultation which ended on 28th April.

We hope you took the time to make your comments.

Once the results of the consultation are available, you will find them at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Changes that may impact on the QE II Playing Fields or other Parish Council owned green spaces will be considered by the Parish Council, you will be kept up to date at www.uptonbychester.org.uk



PAVILION OPENING HOURS:

April to October
Monday – Sunday 9am to 8pm
November to March
Monday – Sunday 9am to 5pm.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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

Upton by Chester Parish Council wants your views on Parish Council issues:

Comments, suggestions and requests are welcome by telephone 07584 415343 or email clerk@uptonbychester.org.uk. or write a note and drop it into Upton Pavilion.

Name

Address

Phone number

Email address

By ticking this box I give permission for UPC to use my personal information to contact me.