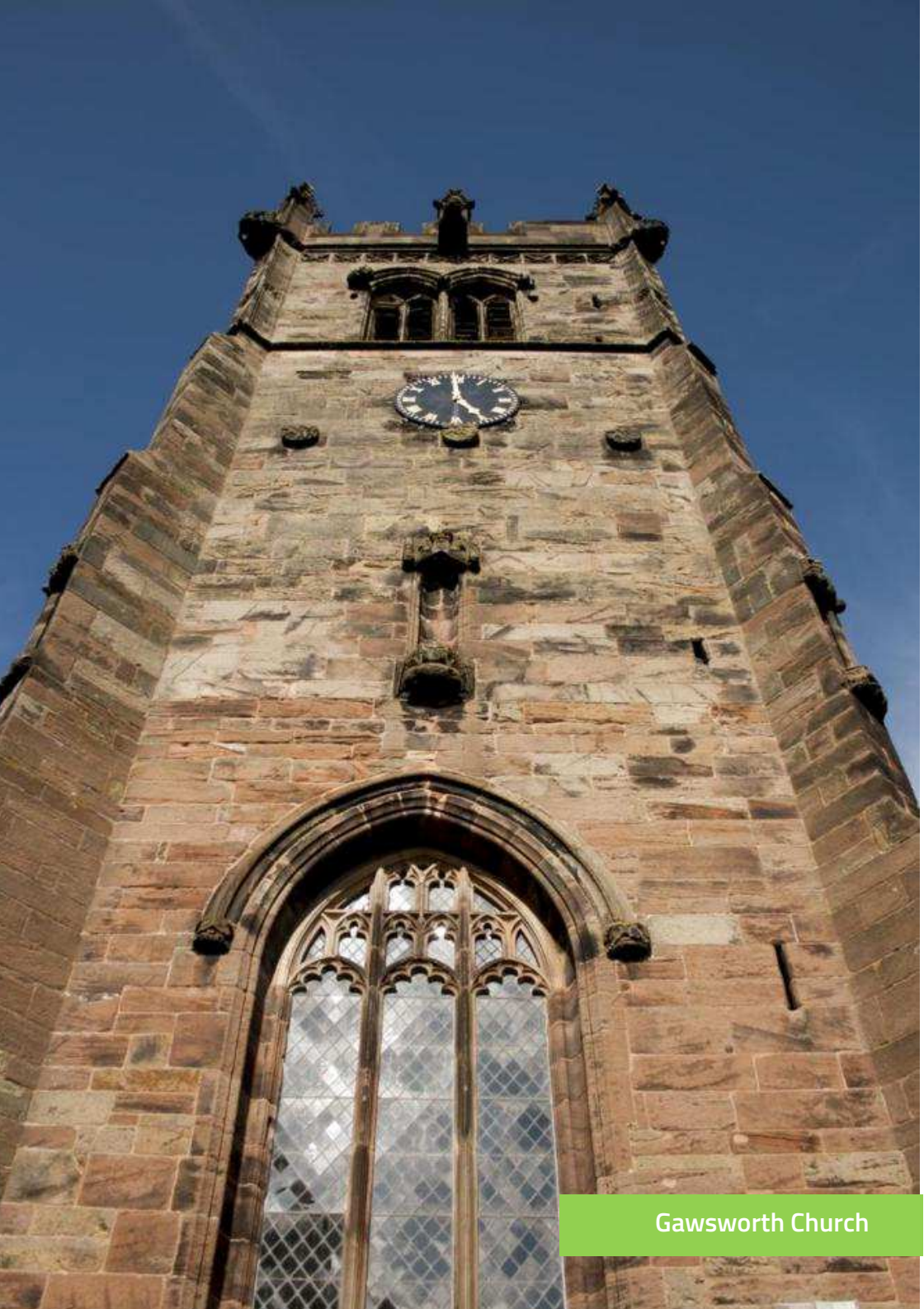




Gawsworth Parish Council

Annual Report 2016/17





Gawsworth Church

Welcome

Welcome to the first annual report publication from Gawsworth Parish Council. This new annual publication is part of our commitment to better engage with and inform our community. The annual report covers the activities of the Council during the past year and will be published every April.

It's been an active year for the Parish Council with two key projects being led by the council (Neighbourhood Plan and Village Hall refurbishment), a by-election, co-option of councillors, adoption of a strategic plan and much more.

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday every month (except December) at 7:30pm. Our meetings are usually in Gawsworth Village Hall, but as of April 2017 we have been meeting in the, warmer, St James' Church Hall.

The Parish Council encourages and invites its residents to actively engage with us, tell us what you want to happen in your parish, tell us what we should be doing for you. You can do this by attending one of our meetings, engaging on Facebook, or by e-mailing/writing to the Parish Clerk or one of your councillors.



Strategic Plan

In June the Parish Council adopted a strategic plan. The plan covers the four years through to 2020 and sets out the council's strategic priorities during this period. The purpose of creating the plan was to publically set out our aims and to guide the work of the council to maximise our effectiveness.

We set out six core priorities and each year adopt an annual action plan. 2016/17 we have met a number of these annual objectives, such as introducing a directory of community organisations on the website, introducing an annual report and working on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

We delivered a copy of the plan to every home in Gawsworth and it is also available online at www.gawsworthpc.org.uk/about-the-council. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the Clerk.

Website Improvements

The Parish Council website has seen a number of new pages added during the year as we work to improve our communications with the Parish. You can now find Parish Councillor profiles, more information on what we do and more transparent information on our finances and policies.

You can also find information on community organisations, local contractors and village facilities such as the Churches, Park and Village Hall.

Over the next twelve months we will be redeveloping the website to make it more mobile and tablet friendly.

Neighbourhood Plan

Creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Gawsorth is one of our key strategic objectives and the past year has seen good progress being made. We undertook a parish-wide consultation to identify the key issues and these have led to the development of our Vision and Objectives.

Over the next few months the advisory committee will be holding a number of consultation meetings to gather further views on matters such as design and character of the area.

It is our intention to have submitted a final plan for consultation by the end of 2017.

Village Hall Improvements

We have established an advisory committee to lead on investigating the options for improvements at the Village Hall jointly with the management committee.

In November, the council signed off the recommendations from this advisory committee to progress with a refurbishment of the hall as opposed to rebuilding. The primary problem with rebuild being the sheer cost of the project and extremely limited funding available.

A grant of £50,000 was secured from WREN and the management committee is now working on the detailed plans for the refurbishment which will be completed by October 2017.

The refurbishment will include internal insulation, new windows and a new heating system.

New Councillors

In mid-2016 Brian Horan and Graham Parks resigned from the Parish Council. No elections were called and the council co-opted Lisa Tyrell and Alison Simpson.

The council was saddened by the death of long-serving councillor Timothy Richards in December 2016 and in January Philip Owen tendered his resignation. Residents called an election to fill the vacancies which was held on March 2nd and saw Paul Woods and Rupert Richards elected to the Parish Council.

You can find the contact details for all parish councillors on the council's website and main noticeboards.

Dark Lane Development

Attracting a huge amount of public interest over the past year has been Cheshire East Council's plans for affordable housing on Dark Lane.

The Parish Council has written to Leader of Cheshire East Council twice; first asking that the project be paused to allow the Neighbourhood Plan to consider the allocation and again asking for specific details of the project. The responses provided more information but the request to pause the project was refused.

The Parish Council has engaged Peter Yates to advise on planning issues and help inform the debate on the issue. We are expecting Cheshire East to undertake a public consultation prior to submitting a planning application in mid-2017.

VISPA Broadband

Cllr Matthew Hartley has been engaging with VISPA for the past few years looking to deliver a wireless high-speed broadband supply for Gawsforth.

A temporary solution was installed in 2016, with VISPA having submitted a planning application for a permanent mast which is awaiting determination by Cheshire East Council. Cheshire East Council currently awaiting a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment prior to it going to the Northern Planning Committee where the more residents who attend to support the application the better it demonstrates our need for better and alternative options to BT.

Improving the Park and Nancy's Wood

One of the commitments set out in our strategic plan is to develop a ten-year strategy for managing the park and woodland. We have started the process of benchmarking the park and woodland against similar local facilities and have planned a public consultation in May to gather your views on how we should improve these community assets.

2016 saw the installation of the new Table Tennis table and the painting of the play equipment.



Road Safety

One of the key issues which was identified through the Neighbourhood Plan survey was concerns about road safety, in particular around the school and at the Gawsforth Crossroads.

The Parish Council met with a Highways Engineer from Cheshire East Council to discuss these concerns and seek actions to address them.

The first action agreed was for Cheshire East to undertake a four-way traffic survey of the Crossroads collecting data on speed, numbers and weight. This will greatly inform both councils on what can be done to address the perceived safety issues.

Cheshire East Council are prepared to introduce waiting restrictions and parking bays on Longbutts Lane to help prevent some of the issues caused by school traffic. These will be subject to consultation and agreed with the Parish Council and community over the next few months.

The Parish Council will continue to work with Cheshire East to address concerns raised by residents.

Bus Shelter

Following comments that the Crossroads Bus Shelter was in a poor state, the Parish Council has been looking at tidying it up. Dark Lane resident Martin Stoneley gave up time to remove the ivy growth and inspect the building, and St James Avenue resident Simon Tuke volunteered his company's time to remove the graffiti.

were delighted that such community minded residents have given their time to help and we are now looking to repair the faulty light and timetable board.

Facebook

The Parish Council joined Facebook this year, with a page set up to increase communication with our residents. We post regular news and information on meetings as well as sharing proposals and plans to gather your views.

If you are on Facebook visit facebook.com/gawsworthparishcouncil and give us a like!

The Year Ahead

The Parish Council will be agreeing its 2017/18 action plan in May, continuing to work to meet its core strategic aims.

Over the next year, we will be undertaking improvement works to the Pleasance, installing a new noticeboard at Penningtons Lane, developing a ten-year strategy for the Park and Woodland and completing our work on the Neighbourhood Plan.

2017 will see us reviewing Parish Maintenance issues to ensure the parish is kept in its best condition year round and looking to see what sorts of new community events would be supported by residents.

We also hope to receive Quality Gold Status in the Local Council Award Scheme, demonstrating the Parish Council operates at the forefront of the local council sector.

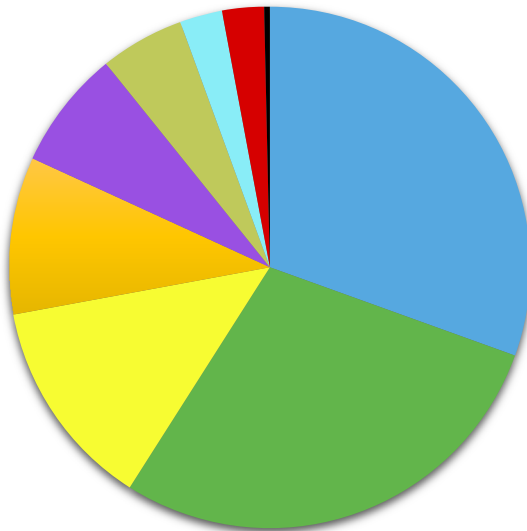
The Parish Council will continue to respond to issues in the parish; supporting our resident's priorities and needs.

Finances

The Parish Council is funded through the parish precept which is collected as part of the Council Tax. The precept is £27,000 resulting in a Band D property paying £33.01 per year for the Parish Council. Our budget for 2017/18 is £38,302 which includes spending from grants and reserves. The Neighbourhood Plan costs are covered fully by grant funding.

We publish the full budget and regular reports on individual payments on the council website.

Budget Breakdown



- Gawsworth Park (30.5%)
- Administration (28.5%)
- Neighbourhood Plan (13%)
- Nancy's Wood (9.8%)
- Handyman / Maintenance (7.4%)
- Parish Improvements (5.2%)
- Gritting (2.6%)
- Special Projects (2.6%)
- Streetlighting (0.4%)



Millennium Village Sign

Gawsworth Parish Council



Adam Keppel-Garner

Parish Clerk

33 Manor Crescent,
Knutsford, WA16 8DL
07891 983 521
clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk

Cllr Evelyn Briggs

Chairman

Beech Cottage, Church Lane,
Gawsworth, SK11 9QY
01625 618 530
briggfamily@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Matthew Hartley

Deputy Chairman

24 Wardle Crescent,
Gawsworth, SK11 9RG
07413 310 300
matthew@parishmatters.co.uk

Cllr Peter Briercliffe

7 Forge Close,
Gawsworth, SK11 9EW
01625 435 374
petram625@btinternet.com

Cllr Paul Lawton

6 Warren Drive, Gawsworth, SK11
9RF
01625 433 123
pjlawton@aol.com

Cllr Rupert Richards

Gawsworth Hall, Church Lane,
Gawsworth, SK11 9RN
01260 223 456
gawsworthhall@btinternet.com

Cllr Alison Simpson

15 Warren Drive
Gawsworth, SK11 9RF

alisoncjsimpson@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Lesley Smetham

Little Trees, Gawsworth Road, Gawsworth,
SK11 9RA
01625 426 173
lesley.smetham@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Cllr Lisa Tyrrell

4 Warren Drive
Gawsworth, SK11 9RF
01625 433 421
lisa-tyrrell@outlook.com

Cllr Paul Woods

27 Benbrook Way
Gawsworth, SK11 9RT
paulwoodsty@btinternet.com