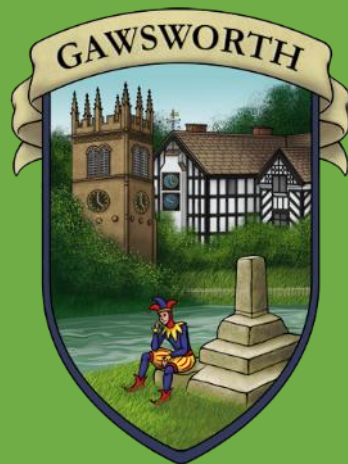




Gawsworth Parish Council

Annual Report 2017/18



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD



Welcome

Welcome to the second annual report publication from Gawsworth Parish Council highlighting some of our activities from the past year and looking ahead over the next.

The major item on the agenda this year has been Cheshire East's proposals for Dark Lane and after months of little information being available we are now much clearer as to what is proposed.

We have welcomed a new councillor, achieved recognition as being at the forefront of best practice and continued to make progress on our Strategic Plan, this year looking at communications and the park in particular.

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday every month (except December) at 7:30pm. All our meetings are in the newly refurbished Village Hall and we encourage residents to attend.

We always want to hear what you want to happen in your parish - so tell us what we should be doing for you. We would like to build of Facebook following, so please do like our page – just search for Gawsworth Parish Council!



New Councillor

In September, Cllr Matthew Hartley stepped down from the Parish Council. No election was called and the Parish Council co-opted Penny Shepherd in January to fill the vacancy.

The Parish Council elected Cllr Paul Woods to take over Matthew's role as Deputy Chairman.

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

Support from the Wider Community

There are a number of achievements this year, that would not have happened without the help of Parishioners. The Parish Council would like to say thank you to all who have helped, as we have all contributed towards making our community a safer and happier place to live.

Road Safety

Within the Parish, road safety continues to be an area of concern. In listening to Parishioners, Gawsworth Parish Council are in the process of setting up an accident data base. Residents are asked to record incidents onto the 'Report It' page within the Parish Council website.

Over the next few months, the Parish Council will have a database for viewing, to help ensure all incidents are collected.

Dark Lane Development

The Parish Council has continued to engage with Engine of the North and Cheshire East Council about the Dark Lane affordable housing development.

We had a number of frustrating months with little progress being made but towards the end of 2017 we met with Engine of the North when it was confirmed that the proposal was for ten homes; eight affordable and two market and would include a new access for the Methodist Chapel and a puffin crossing on the A536.

We met with them again in February in advance of their public consultation on the plans which was held in March. We continue to have a number of concerns about the overall scheme and await the submission of the formal planning application which is expected later in the Spring.

Neighbourhood Plan

The team behind the Neighbourhood Plan have been beavering away over the past twelve months and are currently consulting on the emerging policies.

The Neighbourhood Plan will have a total of 27 policies as well as six aspirations which together cover a range of issues from public rights of way to the design of new housing. We are hopeful of completing the Neighbourhood Plan later in 2018.

The Pleasance

At the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting we displayed plans for improvements to the Pleasance a number of which have been undertaken this year.

Cllr Paul Woods has led the works which have seen the area re-grassed, the rocks moved to create a new planting bed, the re-installation of the Millennium Gawsworth sign and the installation of two new benches, one dedicated to Tony Higgins.

We would like to thank Dennis Newton, the Gawsworth Scouts Danny Birch and other residents for all their help over the year.

We will continue to improve this area in 2018, starting with renewing the fencing around the site.

Quality Gold Award

The Parish Council is now one of around 40 councils in England which has been accredited as Quality Gold in the Local Council Award Scheme operated by NALC (National Association of Local Councils).

The award demonstrates the Parish Council is operating at the forefront of best practice and we are pleased to be one of just four councils in Cheshire to receive this award.

Village Hall Improvements

One of the key aims in our Strategic Plan was to see improvement to the Village Hall and, thanks to the efforts of councilors and the Village Hall Committee, 2017 saw the hall undergo a refurbishment which both preserved the character of our hall and made it modern and comfortable.

Works started in August and the hall now has new windows and doors, improved heating and lighting and new insulation.

Parish Communications

A new working group has been set up to look at communications within the Parish. In April we held our first meeting of the group with representatives from a number of parish organisations and we'll be reviewing current and potential methods of communications to help ensure that all parishioners can easily keep informed of what is going on in Gawsworth.



Gawsworth Park

Following suggestions from local parents we upgraded the seating on the junior swings to 'flat seats' in summer 2017 and, in addition to providing a fresh stock of bats and balls for the table tennis table, we undertook a number of necessary repairs to the park equipment.

Cllrs Lisa Tyrrell and Alison Simpson lead our Park and Woodland working group which over the next few months will see us pull together a ten-year management plan.

In early 2018 we stopped charging for use of the Tennis Courts. Whilst booking is still required we hope this will increase usage of the courts.

Special thanks to Simon Tuke who has undertaken cleaning of the park equipment (and the War Memorial) for the community.

Handrail on Warren Drive

In late 2017 the Parish Council arranged for the installation of a handrail along the ginnel which connects Woodhouse Lane to Warren Drive. This followed residents telling us that at times it was difficult to use the path.

This is a great example of the type of small improvements we can deliver for the Parish and our thanks go to Heather Newton for all her assistance with this little project.

The Year Ahead

Over the next year we will be producing a management plan for Gawsorth Park and Nancy's Wood which will set out how we plan to maintain and improve this a community facility.

We will be finishing the improvements to the Pleasance and looking at installing a history/interpretation panel.

The next year will also see us reviewing our Handyman and Park Maintenance contracts; we'll be looking to ensure all the necessary jobs are covered.

The Parish Council will continue to work on behalf of the community, endeavouring to influence housing development within the Parish, looking at all the many parameters, benefits and challenges.

Parish Council Meetings

May 2018
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
January 2019
February
March
April
April
May

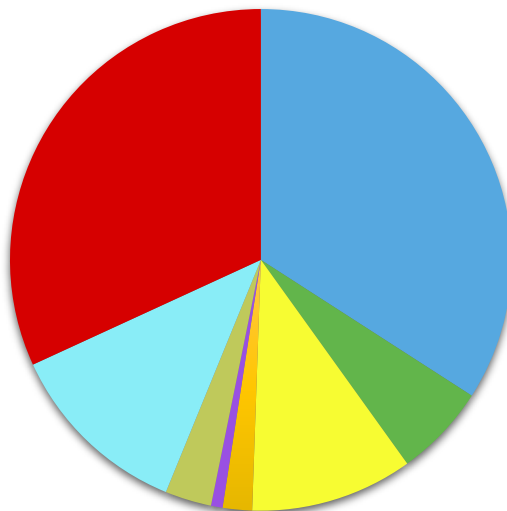
8 th – Annual Council Meeting
12 th
10 th
14 th
11 th
16 th
15 th
No meeting
8 th
12 th
12 th
2 nd – Annual Parish Meeting
9 th
2 nd – Parish Council Election

Finances

The Parish Council is funded through the parish precept which is collected as part of the Council Tax. The precept is £27,500 resulting in a Band D property paying £33.47 per year for the Parish Council. Our budget for 2018/19 is £33,440 which includes spending from grants and reserves. The Neighbourhood Plan costs are covered by grant funding.

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

2018/19 Budget Breakdown



■ Open Spaces (34.11%)

■ Neighbourhood Plan (5.98%)

■ Handyman (10.47%)

■ Street Lighting and Gritting (1.89%)

■ Grants / Donations (0.75%)

■ Parish Improvements (2.99%)

■ Tree Works (11.96%)

■ Administration (31.86%)



IN MEMORY OF
NOËL SKELTON
GAWSWORTH PARISH PLAN
CHAIRMAN
JUNE 2006 - NOVEMBER 2008

Gawsworth Parish Council



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Updated September 2018