



# Gawsworth Gazette

February 2025 | FREE

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## Gawsworth Highways

**The Parish Council resolved, at its January meeting, to input to the Cheshire East Council Transformation work by writing to stress the importance of working closely with Parish Councils at a practical and day to day level.**

A few days later an opportunity to put this into practice came when Parish Councillor Paul Woods was invited by Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham to join a meeting with the Head of Cheshire East Highways Dominic de Bechi and senior members of his team.

Cllr Woods said "It was helpful to meet some key people at Highways who are dealing with issues involving our roads and footways and to understand better the challenges they face and how they work. I was impressed with their knowledge of our local issues despite their

huge workload. We were able to emphasize our willingness to use our local knowledge and contacts to help the Highways team in their work"

Gawsworth issues that were discussed in considerable detail were the spring and recurrent flooding on Lowes Lane as well as reinstatement of the verges following damage from motorists ignoring signage during the recent road closures and temporary lights at Gawsworth crossroads. Also discussed were the repair of the collapsed retaining wall in the park by the verge of the A536, the rotting tree stump on Woodhouse End Road and siding out the footway on the A536 north of Gawsworth crossroads.

We also asked that Highways do all they can to urge the Canal and River Trust to expedite their work



on the Fools Nook canal bridge in the light of the inconvenience to residents and damage to Cowbrook Lane that is being caused.

Paul commented "There were no instant solutions but I feel that progress was made on each of the issues we raised. On behalf of residents, the Gawsworth representatives were able to thank the Highways team for their work on the Safer Roads scheme through Gawsworth. The Parish Council undertook to reflect on the 8 year project and to feedback thoughts and learning points on optimising working relationships with residents' representatives."



## Meet Councillor Webb

**Gawsworth Parish Council welcomed its newest councillor in January.**

Deborah Webb (Deb) lives on Woodhouse Lane and applied to be co-opted to the council to fill a vacancy following Gordon Mitchell stepping down last year.

Deb spoke of feeling "very lucky to live in Gawsworth"

and wanting to use her time to give back to the community. Deb joined the council to be of help in maintaining the village, and preserving its unique environment and to be of use to the community.

The Parish Council warmly welcomed Deb to the team and thanked her for volunteering for the role.

# Gawsworth in Bloom

***A small group of Gawsworth residents has got together to improve the appearance of our various green areas.***

They have joined forces with our park's community garden team and plan 'planting parties' which will enhance our natural environment and bring some more colour to our village.

At the January meeting the Parish Council was impressed with the project aims and how they fitted perfectly with the strategic plan for Gawsworth. The council was pleased to be able to provide a grant to the group to purchase bulbs, plants, seeds etc. A grant

for a small shed to be placed in the park was also agreed.

Marion Oliver, who hatched the plan, said "We are delighted that we will have the resources to start the work of making our village an even more attractive environment for all. Come the spring we'll put out a call for volunteers from all parts of Gawsworth, including the Penningtons Lane area, to undertake the sewing and planting."

Brenda Hughes, who led the hard work to make the community garden a reality, added "Having a small shed to store our compost, wheel barrow etc will really make



our work a lot easier"

Interested in helping out 'Gawsworth in Bloom'? Why not have a word with Marion or Brenda when you next see them, drop an email to [Marion.Oliver@hotmail.com](mailto:Marion.Oliver@hotmail.com) or look out for the invitations to have a go in the spring.

## MP Tim meets Peaks and Plains CEO

***In January Macclesfield MP Tim Roca met with Peaks and Plains CEO Mark Howden.***

Tim said "This was a great way for me to raise issues on behalf of my constituents but also to establish a positive working relationship with the organisation."

Peaks and Plains have 50 properties in Gawsworth: 38 bungalows, seven flats and five houses. Tim invites any residents of Peaks and Plains properties who have any issues or concerns to contact him.

## Rhythm Time coming to Scout Hall

***Award-winning children's music classes will be starting in Gawsworth Scout Hall.***

Award-winning children's music classes will be starting in Gawsworth Scout Hall.

Rhythm Time classes are designed to support early childhood development, following Early Years Foundation Stage principles to help little ones build confidence, communication, and coordination.

Owner of the Rhythm Time East Cheshire, Chantelle Scullion, said "We're thrilled to bring our music classes to more families, fostering developmental growth through music in these vibrant communities.

It's a joy to see our Rhythm Time family grow, and we can't wait to share the magic of music with even more children and parents!"

New customers can try a class for just £7.50 or take advantage of a discounted block booking of eight sessions for £52.

The sessions will take place at 10:15am for Toddlers/Preschool and 11am for babies.

To find out more or book, visit [www.rhythmtime.net/east-cheshire](http://www.rhythmtime.net/east-cheshire) or contact Chantelle at [chantelle.s@rhythmtime.org](mailto:chantelle.s@rhythmtime.org) or 07563 388111.



# Parish Council News

## ***It was another busy council meeting in January for the Parish Council.***

Residents of Lowes Lane attended to highlight the significant problems they are facing with the condition of the road and flooding. These concerns are being raised with Cheshire East Council with the parish council pressing them for action.

Cllr Smetham reported that Cheshire East Council had applied for permission from MHCLG to raise council tax by 9.99% (approximately £179 per year for a Band D household) and that the national planning policy changes would require a new local plan and likely result in additional green belt change with an annual housing target for the borough of 2,461 homes.

A review of the Christmas lights was also discussed. It was noted the light arch required replacement in November at significant cost and that

arrangements for the Christmas tree would be additionally expensive this year due to the need for professional support installing it. It was decided to stop providing a Christmas tree in the village but continue with the light arch whilst it remains functional.

The council reviewed a CEC consultation on Housing Strategy, agreeing to comment that affordable housing on strategic development sites on the periphery or within rural parishes should give equal priority to residents of the parishes as to those of the town in order to meet rural housing needs.

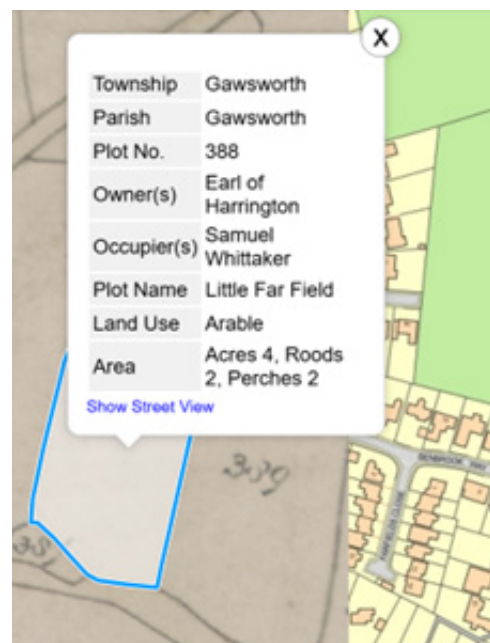
The final main item was setting the parish council budget for 2025/26. The council set a total budget of £48,596, requiring a precept of £43,270 which equates to a Band D charge of £52 per year, an increase of £11.73. The council has had to make additional provision following changes in Employer National Insurance contributions,

## Mobile Library

The mobile library will be on Church Lane from 3:45 to 4:10 on Thursday 13th.

has reinstated a budget for improvements to Gawsworth Park to continue delivering on the park management plan and has included a budget to print a new parish walks booklet.

The next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 11th February at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.



## Tithe Maps Online

***Did you know you can view the tithe map for Gawsworth online?***

Ever wondered what the fields around you were called? In 1849, the field the school is built on was called 'Little Far Field' and was owned by the Earl of Harrington and occupied by Samuel Whittaker.

Ann Pennington tended fields that bordered Penningtons Lane including plots named 'Four Days Work' and 'Five Days Work'. Look up your location at maps. [cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps](http://cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps)

## Lunch Club Changes

***The format of the popular monthly lunch clubs at Gawsworth Methodist Church is changing from February. April.***

From February it will be open from 11am and after Quiet Space at midday a light lunch of soup and sandwiches will be served with a hot drink.

The hall will then remain open as a warm space. This provides a space for chat, playing boardgames, do crafts or completing a jigsaw until 3pm.

Hot drinks and sometimes cake will be available too.

Regular guests and anyone new is welcome to come and join some or all these activities.

There will be a minimum charge of £3 to cover food expenses, but the John Upton Charity has supported heating costs.

The upcoming dates are 20th February, 20th March and 17th April.

If you have any queries about the lunchclub or would like to find out more, contact Sheila Bishop on 01625 433 239.

# Gawsworth Hub News

*Plans have begun for the next pantomime which will hopefully take place in January 2026.*

There is a lot to do behind the scenes which is why it takes a whole year! If anyone out there is interested in helping to design and build the set, which will be one of the first tasks then please let us know. We won't be auditioning for parts in the pantomime until the late summer, but if you are interested, please make yourselves known now.

We will also need a lot of help behind the scenes, people to act as stage managers, help with props and costumes and of course musicians to form a band. If you are interested in any of these things then please email [volunteering@gawsworthhub.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@gawsworthhub.co.uk).

Valentines' day is just around the corner, so why not pop into the Hub for a card for that special person, we have some in our new Whistlefish range of cards. Our gift supplier is also selling some unusual red and pink rose soaps.

Do you have any tradesmen working at your house? If so, why not point them in the direction of the Hub for their lunch? The café is open until 1:00pm every day except Sunday and Monday, providing hot drinks and hot food. We also have a Deli in the shop that provides freshly made sandwiches and toasties, hot and cold pies and drinks to take away or eat in.

Do you have an activity that you enjoy or would like to try? Would you like to participate in a new interest with others? Do you have

## Hub Opening Hours

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday    | 08:00 – 13:30 |
| Tuesday   | 08:00 – 13:30 |
| Wednesday | 08:00 – 13:30 |
| Thursday  | 08:00 – 16:00 |
| Friday    | 08:00 – 16:00 |
| Saturday  | 08:00 – 16:00 |
| Sunday    | 08:00 – 10:30 |

an interest that you could show or teach to a group of people? If you have answered yes to any of the above questions and would like to help organise an activity at the meeting place in the Hub then please contact [accounts@gawsworthhub.co.uk](mailto:accounts@gawsworthhub.co.uk).

Look out for more promotions and events at the Hub as we move towards spring. Don't forget the Repair Café on Saturday 1st February 2.00 to 4.00 pm and every first Saturday in the month. If you have something that needs fixing, we have the people to do it, you can also have a tea or coffee while you are waiting!

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