

CHURCH ASTON PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023

Edition 16

Important date for your diary

Wednesday 13th December between
4-7pm at Church Aston Church Hall.

SAVE OUR VILLAGE from the Development of 160 new Homes

Dear Residents of Church Aston Parish

Telford & Wrekin Council have just published their review of the Local Housing Development Plan and will be consulting on their proposals in the period up to 12th January 2024. In rolling forward the current Local Plan to 2040, the Council are looking to identify sites for housing and economic development. It is being proposed that a further 500+ houses are built in Newport on top of the 1300 houses built over the last 12 years. Only two sites have so far been identified; a small redevelopment site on Audley Ave, **and a site for 160 houses to the south of The Dale in Church Aston.**

All other potential sites put forward, totalling some 2400 houses, have been rejected as being not suitable for development due to being outside of the built-up area (of Newport). The proposed 160 houses on this greenfield site on Grade 2 agricultural land is also outside of the Newport built up area, and would have a significant impact on the character of our village and on the local community in terms of traffic congestion, school provision, health services and the environment. The Parish Council views this as unnecessary and an unwanted development, we will be objecting strongly to Telford & Wrekin Council.

A key area of concern is Inadequate Road Infrastructure and Highway Safety

There is no suitable highway access to this site; the field gate opposite Church Aston Infants is not suitable due to a lack of visibility and a close proximity to the school. There is another potential access point to this site that passes over the old railway bridge. This access is too narrow for safe vehicular access and there is no existing provision for pedestrians. Any new access point onto the A518 would likely need a new roundabout and this would have a significantly detrimental effect on current vehicle flows and would increase journey times along this corridor. A junction would not be safe accessing onto the bypass due to the alignment of the A518. Visibility splays would not be achieved up the bank which is on a bend making any access at this point unsafe. There is currently a safety issue on Liddle's Bank and the Dale with speeding vehicles and conflict between pedestrians and cars on the narrow section where there is no footpath. A development of this size would increase traffic flows and would increase risks to pedestrians.

Currently there are numerous drainage issues in Church Aston linked to a lack of capacity in the existing Drainage systems and an impermeable soil type. These issues have already been exacerbated by developments at Liddle's Bank, Barnfield Close and the site under construction off Station Road. The site proposed for development is already waterlogged in numerous places indicating an impermeable soil type. Development of this scale would add large areas of impermeable surfaces which would severely increase surface water run-off. This in turn would put huge pressure on existing surface water systems which are already inadequate. This issue is usually resolved by developers building attenuation systems such as swales, ponds and storage features which allow water to drain away into the ground. This approach can be seen to be failing at the 'infiltration lake' on the station road development which is constantly filling up with no water permeating to the ground and is clearly not working. The unsuitable soil type and lack of capacity of existing sewers mean that this development cannot proceed.

Full details of the planning application can be found on the Telford & Wrekin Council website by going to:

www.telfordandwrekinlocalplan.co.uk

Members of the public have until 5pm January 12th to make representations to the planning officer which should be made in writing either via the website, by email or letter.

The quickest and easiest way to make your representation is online via Telford & Wrekin's website where all sections of the plan can be viewed and comments submitted.

You can also email If it is not possible to feedback online, you can do so by downloading this a response form and emailing the completed form to: Localplan@telford.gov.uk.

Post You can **download a feedback form** or collect one from Newport Library
Please post your completed form to:

Strategic Planning team
Telford & Wrekin Council
PO BOX 457
Southwater One
TF2 2FH

You can also access a Help Guide by going to or clicking on the
[*https://consult.telford.gov.uk/kse/event/37681](https://consult.telford.gov.uk/kse/event/37681)

The planning application was considered by the Parish Council at their November monthly meeting on Monday, November 6th 2023. Following a discussion, Church Aston Parish Council in partnership with Borough Councillor Andrew Eade, agreed to strongly object to the proposed development. In an effort to raise awareness locally it was agreed to get this newsletter out to all residents to fully explain the basis for opposing the proposed development and get your involvement in opposing the plan. We need your help!

We will be holding a local drop-in information session on **Wednesday 13th December 4-7pm in the Church Hall**, where Telford & Wrekin Council Planning Team Staff will be available to listen to your views and answer your questions. There will also be help available with your on-line submissions.

A T&WC Drainage Engineer will also be in attendance to answer any queries regarding flooding and drainage concerns. On behalf of my parish council colleagues, we thank you in advance for your support on this crucial matter, it's time to come together to save the future of our beautiful village.

Cllr Simon Stacey
Chairman for Church Aston Parish Council



Welcome to new Cllr Nicholas Collier

We would like to welcome our latest Parish Councillor Nicholas Collier who was successful in his application for a Council Vacancy at the parish meeting in October. Nick has lived in Newport for most of his life, attended local schools, works in Telford and is very pleased to have been appointed. He is particularly passionate in supporting others and is looking forward to his new role in the parish. Good luck in your new position!



T&WC Boundary Review Update

Telford & Wrekin Council are currently conducting a Community Governance Review (CGR), this is a legal process which consults on the most suitable way to represent the people in the Parishes identified in the review. A CGR will take into account the impact on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of a community or parish. The Council (TWC) is required to ensure that the CGR will reflect the identities and interests of the community and be effective and convenient. A review can consider:

Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes. The name or style of parishes or creation of town councils. The electoral arrangements: number of councillors, Wards including the Grouping parishes (or de-grouping), Other local arrangements, including parish meetings

The parish council has submitted its own recommendation that the current arrangement of two wards in the parish merge into one but remains represented by 10 Councillors.

Local residents are encouraged to have their say – this can be done by:

Online survey on [TWC website](#). By email to reviews@telford.gov.uk or Write to [Electoral Services, Darby House, Telford TF3 4JA](#) A paper version of the survey is available on request. Consultation submissions must be in my 12th December 2023. These will be considered by the Boundary Review Committee with a final round of consultation currently planned from 22nd May to 24th July 2024, although these dates may be subject to alteration. Any changes will be effective from May 2027 elections.

Community News

We are so excited to share the wonderful news that the Church & Chetwynd Aston Village Hall Committee have been awarded The King's Award for Volunteers, a very prestigious award that will be amongst the first to be presented by the Lord-Lieutenant. Two members have been invited to represent the group at a Royal Garden Party in the new year. The hall is used extensively by many local people who enjoy the wide range of groups, classes and social functions, all of which would not happen if it were not for the Committee members, volunteers and helpers hard work, we hope you will join us in congratulating them!



This year's Parish Council Worthy Citizens Award was recently given to the Committee and Volunteers from both The Church & Village Hall, in recognition of their relentless contribution in making our community builds such a hub of activity for all to enjoy – thank you!

Cllr Simon Stacey awarding winners Malcolm Bennett (Chair to CA Village Hall Cttee) and John Waite (Chairman to The Church Hall Cttee).



Parish Council's Community Grant Awards 2023

Over £2,500 of Community Grants have been donated to the following groups to support the great work and projects they provide in our community:

- Church Aston Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.
 - The Community Cuppa Group
 - St Andrews PCC Church Events group for The King's Coronation
 - Moonstruck Theatre (Youth Theatre)
 - The Church Hall
 - Short Mat Bowls group
 - Newport Cottage Care Centre
 - Church Aston Infants School
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Volunteering Opportunity

We know life is busy, and for many people the idea of volunteering is not an option. Volunteering can be such a rewarding thing to do - we are hoping to find two people or even just one, that can help to support the following volunteer vacancies at St Andrews Church, it can really make a difference.....

Reverend Zoe Hemmings writes 'Since our wonderful Administrator Liz retired this summer, we are looking for someone to help keep the administration in order to ensure that the administration and governance procedures run smoothly as we continue to serve our whole community of Church Aston. The Treasurer and PCC secretary roles are crucial, we are looking for someone with time and skills to share. Both roles are part of our collaborative and busy little team of volunteers who make up our church community. There are many hands on- deck!'

The Treasurer's role is approximately 1- 2hrs a week and the Administrators Role is approximately 2- 3 hours a week. For full details or just for an initial chat please contact:

Office.standrewschurchaston@gmail.com or phone Zoe on 079268056

**Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
and a healthy happy new year.**

How to contact us:

Email: churchaston@gmail.com

Tel: 07403 284513

Website: www.churchaston-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: search Church Aston Parish Council

