



Annual Assembly

Upton by Chester & District Parish
Council

April 2024



Agenda

1. Parish Council Chair's Report

Sue Stanley

2. Nature Networks

Chris Ablett, Chester Zoo

3. Upton WI - Inspiring women in our local community

Teresa Whale

4. Open Forum



1. Parish Council Annual Report

- Who are we?
- What have we been doing over the last year?

Who are we?

- ▶ **A Civil Parish of ca 9,000 people**
- ▶ (Nothing to do with a church)
- ▶ “Grass roots of local democracy”
- ▶ Cheshire has over 240 Parish/Town councils

- ▶ In Upton, we have seats for **16** councillors,
with **13** currently filled
- ▶ These are unpaid posts
- ▶ As a Parish Council we are **NOT** party-political

New Council elected May 2023 - every 4 years



Our Councillors have backgrounds in:
Banking, NHS, Marketing, HR, Education, Social work,
R&D, Management, Business consultancy

Our staff



Clerk
Suzi Bull



Facilities Manager
Darren Flaherty



Snr Facilities Assistant
Matt Jones



Facilities Asst
Gaynor Proctor

Our sites



Our mission

- ▶ Create a thriving community
- ▶ Make Upton a great place to be
- ▶ Connect people

Some key interfaces

- ▶ Police and Community Safety
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ CW&CC
- ▶ Local businesses
- ▶ Chester Zoo, COCH, Dale Barracks
- ▶ Local voluntary organisations



We fact-find and make representations
- and take action within our powers (1)

- ▶ CPSO - Eva Williams - Monthly reports on community safety are discussed
- ▶ Top issues in Upton:
 - ▶ Parking
 - ▶ Speeding
 - ▶ Youth ASB in public spaces

We fact-find and make representations - and take action within our powers (2)

Recent representations to CW&CC:

- ▶ **Highways - Parking, Zebra crossing, Potholes**
- ▶ Inputs to Local Plan consultations
- ▶ Transport & Travel
- ▶ Libraries
- ▶ Wilder Cheshire



Where does our money come from?

- ▶ Funded by the “precept”
- ▶ CW&CC collects precept as part of Council Tax



- ▶ It's there to address local needs
- ▶ Some PCs as low as £3k, some up to £2m p.a.
- ▶ **In 2024-5, Upton PC will receive £159K, which is £46 per Band D property**

Upton Precept 2024-25

Charge per Band D property p.a.

	2023-24	2024-25	% change
Upton	£43.99	£46.16	+4.9%
UK	£79.14	£85.88	+8.5%

Reasons for 4.9% increase in Upton

- ▶ [Rise in our baseline costs]
- ▶ **2024-25:** improved website and increased two-way communication with residents
- ▶ **Strategic Plan:** scoping and consultation
 - ▶ Children's playground at Chemistry Pits
 - ▶ Improvements to playing fields
 - ▶ Upgrades to Pavilion

➤ What have we been doing over the last year?

- 1) Planning submissions - statutory consultee
- 2) Community events & news
- 3) Recreation/sports on our sites
- 4) Finance & Governance

What have we been doing?

1) Planning submissions - statutory consultee

- We've reviewed **56** planning applications
- We've checked them vs the requirements of the Upton Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2030
- We've listened to residents
- We've made submissions/objections



What have we been doing?

2) Community events & news

- ▶ Annual Fun Day - early Sept
- ▶ Remembrance Ceremony
- ▶ Carols at the Pavilion



2) Cont: PC news

▶ Autumn & Spring Newsletters

▶ Upton Pavilion Facebook

▶ UPC Facebook



Upton by Chester Pavilion
2.7K likes • 3.1K followers

2) Cont: Community Small Grants

- ▶ This year we made a significant grant to The Heath Youth Club
- ▶ All Upton voluntary organisations can apply
- ▶ Terms and application form on the Parish Council website
www.uptonbychester.org.uk



THE HEATH
YOUTH CLUB

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE
**A NEW YOUTH CLUB
IN UPTON**

OPEN FRIDAYS
6.30PM - 8.30PM
DURING TERM TIME

 **UPTON URC, 44 HEATH ROAD,
UPTON, CHESTER, CH2 1HX**

What have we been doing?

3) Recreation/sports on our sites

- ▶ Upton Vets bowling team won the Hermitage Cup for the first time
- ▶ Exploring our options on Football Pitch Drainage
- ▶ Tennis Courts maintenance
- ▶ Chemistry Pits: path, fence, future play facilities



What have we been doing?

4) Finance & Governance

- Evidence-based budget for 2024-5
- Solid foundations of finance/accounts practice
- Health & Safety overhaul
- Employment practice review

We're now set for 2014-25

- ▶ We've rebuilt the foundations
- ▶ We've started strategic projects
- ▶ **Our Vision:**

BEST VILLAGE





▶ Thank you

What would you like us to do?



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