

Working to Address Climate Change: Ashover Parish Council Declares a Climate Emergency

Your Parish Council has taken an important decision to declare a Climate Emergency for Ashover Parish. This means that it recognises that climate change is one of the biggest threats and challenges facing our community, the result of changes to the climate due to increasing carbon dioxide emissions. It wants to take action now to identify where it currently stands and what it can do to reduce carbon emissions resulting from its own activities.

Ashover Parish Council has adopted a review process, based on the framework provided by North East Derbyshire District Council, which has also declared its own climate emergency.

Your Parish Council has reviewed Building Efficiency, Utilities, how it deals with waste, outdoor activities and biodiversity, and its consumables and procurement activity. This review has identified that the Parish Council is already acting positively in lots of areas, but more needs to be done. It has asked that its Burial Board looks at the management of the Ashover Cemetery with fresh eyes with a view to improving the biodiversity. Councillor Helen Boffy, the Parish Council lead on Climate Change, said "This is a great opportunity for the Council to 'do its bit' in helping reduce carbon emissions in Ashover Parish. I hope we can look at the impact on Climate Change in everything we do. We aim to engage with the community in the near future, to work as one to improve the quality of life and wellbeing in the wonderful Parish of Ashover."

Saying Goodbye

Ashover Parish said Goodbye to Rector Ralph Lawrence and his wife Sue at the end of September. Ralph retired at the end of September after 16 years serving the four parishes of Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington. The Ministry Team and church wardens are stepping into the breach until another rector is appointed; they are beginning to realise just how much Ralph has had to do to look after our churches and communities. Bishop David Hawtin said at Ralph's induction service that Ralph was quiet and humble, "which he has proved to be in his time with us. We have found him to be conscientious, faithful, determined and devoted in his calling to serve us all" commented one couple while someone else felt drawn to "mention Ralph's very kind, sensitive, meaningful and memorable funeral services. I haven't been to any, anywhere, that have meant as much to me as those he has held." At the end of the 'Zoom' Parish Council Meeting in September, Members and the clerk of Ashover Parish Council recorded a short video expressing their thanks to Ralph for his work and support over the past 16 years.



We all have our memories and reasons to be grateful for Ralph's considerate and gentle ways. In these times we will not be able to have a large-scale farewell event but this does not mean we are any the less appreciative of his service to us. Thank you, Ralph and Sue.

A632 Safety Campaign

At the September meeting of the Parish Council, Members received notification from Derbyshire County Council of a Traffic Regulation Order on the A632. No objections were raised and your Parish Council reinforced the need to both Derbyshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner, for speeding to be monitored along the A632 in Ashover Parish and in particular at Kelstedge, enforcing speeding fines where necessary.

Keeping safe through Covid-19

Adapting to changes in Covid-19 rules can sometimes seem a challenge but in so many ways we are fortunate. We have a great, well-stocked farm shop, a post office (and café!) we can depend on and some great local pubs. We're also blessed with beautiful surroundings to walk in.

Inevitably the current situation means that despite these facilities we tend to be quite reliant on access to on-line services and there is a need to be vigilant on the risk of fraud. Please bear in mind the following:

Cyber security on-line shopping tips

Conduct research: when using a new website for purchases, read reviews and see if other consumers have had a positive or negative experience of the site.

When in doubt throw it out: links in e mails, posts and texts are often how cyber criminals try to steal your information or infect your devices

Personal information is like money – value it and protect it: When making a purchase online be alert to the kinds of information being collected to complete the transaction. Make sure you think it is necessary for the vendor to request that information. Remember you only need to fill out required fields at checkout.

Use safe payment options. Credit cards are generally the safest option because they allow buyers to seek a credit from the issuer if the product isn't delivered or isn't what was ordered.

Protect your ££. When shopping online check to be sure the site is security enabled. Look for web addresses with https:// indicating extra measures to help secure your information.

Test and Trace scams

Be on your guard against criminals trying to con people out of money by pretending to be from the NHS Test and Trace Service, in a new coronavirus-related scam.

Councils have received reports of fraudsters attempting to exploit the system through bogus phone calls, emails and text messages which ask for bank card details to cover the cost of the testing kit. The genuine NHS service is free.

The Test and Trace Service aims to reduce the spread of coronavirus by quickly testing people with symptoms and either phoning, texting or emailing whoever they have had close contact with to tell them to self-isolate for 14 days.

In the scam, a message or phone call claiming to be from the NHS Test and Trace Service is sent or made to householders informing them that they have been in contact with somebody who has tested positive for coronavirus and that they need to self-isolate and take a test.

The scammers refuse to disclose who the householder has been in contact with but ask them to confirm their address so a testing kit can be sent to them. Bank card details are then requested – purportedly to cover the cost of the testing kit.

Remember that the genuine NHS Test and Trace Service will never:

- Ask for bank account details, passwords or PIN numbers
- Ask for a payment or to buy a product
- Ask you to download any software
- Ask you to call a premium rate number to speak to the NHS (for example those starting 09)
- Disclose any of your personal or medical information to your contacts

Anyone asked these types of questions should report the incident to Action Fraud.

Jims Field

The history - In 2010 Jim Mart, a former resident of Alton, donated a piece of land near Quarry Lane, Alton, to be held in trust by the Charity Commission and managed as a nature reserve by Ogston Bird Club.

This changed in 2018 when a small group of Alton residents were contacted by Ashover Parish Council who advised that Ogston Bird Club were considering passing on the management of this piece of land to Alton village because they didn't have the people or

resources to look after it in a way that Jim would have wanted. The residents were intrigued and wanted to explore how they could develop Jim's legacy.

Guidance from the Charity Commission indicated that the land could be transferred to a suitable charity so a small group of Alton residents set one up - 'Alton Community Land'. On 6 November the field, now christened Jim's Field, was finally transferred to the community. In recent years the field has become overgrown and looking quite forlorn and the main objective of the community is to create a wonderful wild-life haven which all can share.

Improving the site and making it safer - The east of the site adjacent to Quarry Lane had a large pheasant breeding compound dating back to the early 2000s and an early priority has been to demolish this wooden, metal-panelled and wire fencing construction. It has proved to be a tough job and a local resident has kindly used his tractor to remove substantial wooden posts while other local volunteers have worked hard to dig out old fencing and concrete. A skip is being organised so the debris can be removed from the site.

Planning the future of the site - Two main sources of advice have helped devise a plan for management of the site. Firstly, Mark Taylor, a former pupil of Tupton Hall School and now working for Natural England advising on preserving wildlife and its interaction with farming. He undertook a survey of Jim's Field on 20th April and provided a valuable report for us to work to. This was followed by a visit from Chloe Gordon of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on 29th May. With the help of these two reports we have been able to create a draft management plan which will retain 'High Value' plants (i.e. good for bio- diversity) and remove invasive brambles, nettles and other less desirable plants e.g. ragwort.

The volunteers - Local Alton residents have fully embraced the project and have been joined by members of Ashover Tree Group, Linda (Ashover's tree warden), Julian and Mike. It's the kind of project where everyone can get involved in so many different tasks – digging out fencing, strimming and ragwort pulling. In the case of the latter, the eradication of a widespread ragwort has been a great achievement and even though it will come back it'll be in much smaller and manageable growth. Our pictures show some of the volunteers at work and the progress being made.



A landscape view of the site as well as highlighting one of the big tasks - ragwort pulling



A trio of happy volunteers - Pat, Joan and Hope!

Lots to do but it has been immensely satisfying for all, seeing such a lot of progress over a relatively short time on such an inspiring community project.

Ashover Footpaths and Bridleways Group

Ashover footpaths and bridleways now cover over 50 miles! The latest additions are two parts of Back Lane Overton from near Milltown to Green End on Overton Lane. They are now legal bridleways, so it is illegal for motorbikes to use them.

A small group of volunteers has been active on several paths in The Parish both to clear vegetation and to ensure that paths are on the legal line. In particular, the old stone slabs on the path to Overton Hall and those on the path from The Rattle to Marsh Green have been cleared. Work has also continued on Highoredish, The Fabric and Eddlestowe Lot to follow environmental plans established on the County Council owned lands.

We are lucky that Karen Haywood from Milltown (01246 590145) is the main contact for all things to do with bridleways.

It would also be helpful if more volunteers come forward to help with the network of paths, as the present gang advance in years – but still have the knowledge of the network.....If there are folks in different parts of The Parish to keep an eye on their nearest paths (say Uppertown, Milltown, Kelstedge, Press and Stone Edge, the please contact Richard Felton on 01246 590786 to learn more!

If you wish to report any issues relating to rights of way there is an online facility at <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/prow> Furthermore, you can view the entire rights of way network by visiting the Council's website and searching for 'Mapping Portal' where visitors can view a wealth of information, including Rights of Way. Information relating to Modification Orders may be viewed here

<https://www.apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/right-of-way/>

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS

- **William Armitage** (01246)590486
Green Bank,Hockley Lane,Ashover S45 OER
- **Helen Boffy** (07515 280707)
Langford House Narrowleys Lane Ashover S45 OAU
- **Steve Dronfield** (01246) 590721
Willow Tree Farm, Hunger Hill Lane, Stonedge S45 OLP
- **Nigel Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 OER
- **Rosemary Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 OER
- **Richard Fidler** (01246) 590155 (**Vice-Chairman**)
Porthlea, Alton Lane, Littlemoor S45 OBE
- **Lucy Hunter-Bott** 07976 733607
Marshbrook, Butts Road, Ashover S45 OHW
- **Chris Miller** (01246) 590253
Hill House, Hill Road, Ashover S45 OBU
- **Mike Thomas** (01246) 591733
Touchstone Chapel Hill Ashover S45 OAT
- **Ed Willmot** (01246) 590260 (**Chairman**)
The Pines, Hill Road, Ashover S45 OBZ

Parish Clerk

- Parish Clerk/Burial Clerk: Sara Atkinson
Tel (01246) 863018
E-Mail parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk
Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BA

District and County Councillors

- **North East Derbyshire District Councillor - William Armitage** (01246)590486
Green Bank,Hockley Lane,Ashover S45 0ER
- **Derbyshire County Councillor – Barry Lewis** (01773) 830871
2 King George St, Wessington S55 6DZ

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Derbyshire County Council – 01629 580000 or 01629 533190

North East Derbyshire District Council - 01246 231111

Police – NON-URGENT calls to report crime, anti-social behaviour, non-violent crime or general information: 101

Please note: You **MUST** continue to use 999 where a crime is in progress, for serious crime or where violence is being used.

Citizens Advice Bureau – Providing consumer advice, free of charge, on a range of issues or complaints.

Website: www.adviceguide.org.uk

Tel. 08454 040506