

COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
Corporate Director (Business)	Development Control Committee	22/04/09	

ADDENDUM

ITEM 1: 09/00024/FUL – Erection of multi-use games area including provision of 3m steel fencing, tarmac playing surface and access footpaths. Land 80m east of Buckshaw Primary School Chancery Road Astley Village.

The Parish Council have submitted the following document for the Committee's attention:

Astley Village Parish Council

PLANNING APPLICATION FACTS - 09/00024/FUL

1. The Multi Use Games Area project is not an Astley Village Parish Council project. It is a project devised by young residents who were assisted by youth workers to find out what they wanted in the village, and get funding.

Astley Village Parish Council presently has involvement in the project because it was requested to agree to maintain the facility (if built), act as Bankers for the grant fund, and latterly to submit a planning application.

2. Astley Village Parish Council took a majority vote at a meeting on the 7 January 2009 to submit a planning application for the Multi-Use Games Area at the site on Chancery Road

The decision above still stands. Astley Village Parish Council has not revoked or changed this decision.

3. Residents of Astley Village were informed of the position of the Games Area via a newsletter article published in the Parish Council's newsletter in September 2008 (copy below). The article identified to residents a suggested position (the one specified on the planning application) and further, asked for 'views or thoughts' from residents.

A further article was published in the following newsletter, December 2008 (copy below) - this identified again to residents the suggested site and went on to say the issue would go through the planning process.

4. The site location for the Games Area was not chosen by the Astley Village Parish Council, it was offered by Chorley Council as their contribution towards the young people's project. The offered site was then specified in the funding bid to Lancashire County Council and the funds approved against the details of the application bid. The site is more than 14.5 metres from the road edge.

5. The Parish Council was informed that alternative sites had been considered during the period running up to the funding bid being submitted - which were unsuitable and unavailable.

Hall Gate car park - Chorley Council could not give permission for a Games Area to be built on there and the Police did not endorse. Land immediately behind Buckshaw School or on spare land near to Westway on the Westway playing fields was also not acceptable to Chorley Council (landowner) or Police.

6. To reiterate, the position of Astley Village Parish Council still remains that it has taken a majority decision to submit a planning application for a Games Area on the site adjacent to Chancery Road. This application was not rejected by the Statutory Development Control Committee of the Planning Authority but recommended for Approval.
7. The amount of statutory consultation required by a planning application has been exceeded in this planning application:
 - The whole of Astley Village were informed of the project and the proposed site location on two separate occasions within the Parish Council newsletter (September 2008 and December 2008).
 - Over and above the 'affected' residents being consulted as per planning guidelines, a total of 64 letters were hand delivered on 11 December 2008 to all residents of Harewood, The Baron's Rest, Browns Hey, Banastre, Clough Acre and Millcroft - letter and addresses were submitted with the application.
 - Support documents with the planning application included a copy of a Places for People survey of 38 properties and a petition of 62 signatures collected by the young applicants seeking support for the games area.
 - Development Control consulted by letter, and public notices, to the affected residents as part of their normal procedures.
 - Objections were sent in to Development Control but, the village has a population of over 3,330 people, the quantity of objection letters was minimal, 2%, and cannot reflect a 'majority' view or the whole village view.

Astley Village Parish Council
20 April 2009

Below are extract from Astley Village Parish Council newsletters.

September 2008 newsletter front page (highlighted in yellow)



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Please visit the website below when after @astleyvillageparishcouncil.org.uk

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Please visit the website for information on Council procedures, minutes and other interesting documents and information.

Contact the Clerk if you wish to advertise in this newsletter it reaches every household in Astley Village quarterly.

Chairman's Message

Dear Residents,
Welcome to the Autumn edition of the parish newsletter.

There is quite a lot of news to report since the last newsletter in June.

Despite the gloomy weather the Astley in Green Open Gardens event attracted a good turnout from both residents and visitors to the village throughout the day. The free donkey rides proved to be popular with the young children and the ladies from the WI did an excellent job once again serving refreshments - a big thank you ladies.

I was amazed at the number of people who turned up for a preview of the Viald Garden at Astley Hall, it was a pleasure doing the tour and getting the chance to talk with so many residents.

A big thank you to those in the village who entered their gardens, they looked brilliant and really showed Astley Village at its finest.

The Literacy Action meeting held in June saw a reasonable number of residents join in with Councilors to carry out the litter pick and general tidy up. Chorley Council kindly provided a free scanner for the day.

The Parish Council has been in the news a number of times over the summer. The road traffic survey carried out by Lancashire County Council raised some alarming statistics over the speed of traffic using Chancery Road.

The Council has taken the decision to purchase its own Speed Indicator to record the data and publish it in our newsletters. I successfully managed to secure a grant of £300 from the County Council's Parish Champion to cover part of the costs. See full article on pg 4.

The Council agreed, but only after I had to use my casting vote, to celebrate Christmas this year and it will be providing a tree with lights in the village and will be situated on the green in front of the shops. It is planned to have a Carols Singing evening before

Christmas and to make it an annual community event, just like the Open Gardens event.

The Parish Council provided a grant to Astley Village Juniors FC who kindly organised a three week summer sports programme over at Chorley RUFC. Once again this was fully booked up and the young people attending enjoyed a range of sports.

The Arts Partnership organised its new Horizons Festival in Astley Village this year using Astley Hall and the community centre. Aimed at the 11+ age group a good number of young people from Astley Village took part.

The Young People's Service detached team have been busy in the village engaging with young people and residents over play facilities and the Places For People Big Lottery Green Spaces review.

One issue to come out of the survey and discussions with young people will be no surprise to most in the village, it is the lack of facilities and open play spaces for young people.

This has been highlighted even more by the change in location of the play areas in Astley Park. These have been moved further away from the village, up near the park.

One area currently being investigated is a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for the village and this suggestion is adjacent to the school on the new area. There is going to be a school on the new area. There is going to be a school on the new area. There is going to be a school on the new area.

I would like to say on behalf of the village a big thank you to CSM Steve Barlow and PCSO Rick Neal who have moved on to new areas. Steve is going to work over in South West Chorley and congratulations to Rick who has become a police officer. They both make a real impact on the village and will be missed. We welcome back CSM Richard Wells.

Mark Perks
Chairman

December 2008 newsletter back cover, (first column, last sentence in the last paragraph)

Public Multi Use Games area for Children and Young People

At the September Parish Council meeting a group of young people involved in the multi use games area project attended to seek the council's support. In their bid to seek funding from the Youth Capital Fund for a much needed ball games area in the centre of the village.

The Parish Council voted to support the group in their project, it had already agreed to a maintenance plan for a games area. The group also presented their ideas to the September PACT meeting after carrying out a survey of young people in the village and collect a petition.

Both Borough and County Councilors have given their support to the ambitious year 11 pupil's project and have been working closely with the 'Young People's Services Detached Team' in the village.

Plans and tenders from five sports contractors were collected and a preferred contractor chosen. The £64,000 bid has now been submitted to the Youth Council.

Parish Chairman Mark Perks has assisted the group in seeking support from Chorley Council, who suggested and offered a piece of land adjacent to the school as part match funding.

Mark commented "It has already been identified by the sports development team in the borough that Astley Village has no open public games facilities and there is a great need for one. These young people should be encouraged and congratulated on their efforts to change this."

Should funding be approved plans for the games area will then be submitted to Chorley Council development control committee and residents will be consulted within this planning process.

Do you recycle all you can?

We produce and use 20 times more plastic today than we did 20 years ago!

Recycle Lancashire having one of the best Recycling rates currently a large quantity of our plastic still go in the road bin, because we are unsure which can be recycled.

Here is a quick guide. On nearly all pieces of plastic is a recycling symbol, and this indicates what type of plastic it is and its recyclable quality. We in Lancashire can recycle plastic marked 1, 2 and 3 as below:

- 1 PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) eg. fizzy drink bottles and non-recyclable ketchup
- 2 HDPE (High-density polyethylene) eg. bottles for milk and washing-up liquids
- 3 PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) eg. Food trays, cling film, bottles for squash, mineral water and shampoo.

Chorley Council Neighbourhood Watch

Chorley Council has again this year, as last year, contacted a sack of doffodils to be planted in the village. Also a generous offer of a summer, for our caretakers use.

That's plastic. What else can we do?

A few practical tips for our homes would be to stop unwanted junk mail or if we have a child consider using Best Neighbours. Another way to get rid of things no longer.

Freezebox groups match people who have things they want to get rid of with people who can use them. It's a way to keep things out of landfill. Visit www.freezebox.org.uk and join the Chorley group.

Stop unwanted junk mail being delivered by registering with the Mailing Preference Service to have your name and address removed from mailing lists: www.mpsonline.org.uk, or write to The Mailing Preference Service, Freeview 22, London, W1E 7EZ or call 0845 7064368.

Recycling Campaign Candidate using re-usable mugs for your party - a haul of vouchers are available from Lancashire County Council, sign up in availability visit www.lancashirecc.com or call 0885 089075 for details.

Chorley Ramblers

Chorley Ramblers publish a walking programme every three months to include various routes and grades of difficulty of walks.

The walks programme is displayed on the village noticeboard or can be printed from the Council website.

The walks programme can be printed from the Astley Village website

Astley Village Nursery

Located at Astley Village Community Centre

For ages 2-5 years old
Ofsted Registered

Monday-Friday 9am-12pm, 2pm-3pm
June-30 per unit 03.30pm-3.30pm

Special Christmas Offer for December
10m-3.30pm session for just £2.75 - why not go Christmas shopping?

Contact Celia during Nursery hours on 01524 263377 or on 01524 522885.

Council news...

Full Council Meetings are on first Wednesday of the month (except Jan and Aug). At 7.30 pm in Astley Village Community Centre.

4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May, 3 June

This newsletter is published March, June, September and December.

The Parish Council has two noticeboards, one adjacent to Astley Village Primary and the Junction of Hallgate and Chancery Road.

Message from PC Richard Wells

I am pleased to be working back on the village and to see the increase in attendance at the PACT meetings which are proving successful in gaining community information. If you have not been to a PACT meeting before, please feel free to come along.

PCSG Rick Neal has left the village recently to become a regular officer, and I wish him luck in his new career.

During the festive season, please be vigilant as this time of year provides thieves with extra opportunities.

Remember the Police are intelligent and, if you have information about a crime in your area, let us know.

Police and Communities Together Meetings (PACT)

PACT meetings on Tuesdays, at 7.00 pm in Astley Village Community Centre, Halgate 2009 - 5 Jan, 10 Feb, 24 March, 6 May, 16 June, 28 July

PC Richard Wells
PCSG Cllr CLOne
Chorley 280121 / 246225
General Police enquiries line 0845 12 35 45
CrimeStoppers 0800 555 114

Two further letters of objection have been received raising the following points

- The MUGA is far too near the public house and off-licence
- Chancery Road and the area around it were designed as a 'village', MUGAs are not rural furniture and more akin to City living where there are no open green spaces
- The MUGA should be built into a quiet safe corner of the playing fields away from the school and all the residential buildings that adjoin the perimeter
- The application should be deferred for more consultation with the residents

One additional letter of support has been received.

For Members information at the time of considering the application 83 individual letters of objection were received and three petitions objecting to the MUGA of 14, 10 and 310 signatures respectively. 51 individual letters of support were received and three petitions of 140, 36, and 11 signatures respectively is support.

ITEM 2: 09/00137/FUL- Split level extensions (two-storey and basement) to rear of existing restaurant, a single storey extension including link to rear of dining room, both to provide staff accommodation, to include taking down and rebuilding of wall to Shaw Brow. 174 Preston Road, Whittle-Le-Woods, Chorley, PR6 7HE.

It should be noted that there is a mistake in the report under the highways and parking paragraph in the assessment, which states that there are double yellow lines on this part of Preston Road. This is incorrect as there are no double yellow lines but a cycle lane. However, it is not considered that this changes the recommendation of the application to approve. The scheme mainly proposes accommodation for the owner and staff, with the only increase in the public area being in the form of a small function room measuring approximately 38m². This aspect is an internal alteration and could therefore be carried out without planning permission even if the application were refused (which is why it was not included in the description of the development). Given this fallback position, which would result in the restaurant having the same amount of public floor space as proposed by the application, the recommendation remains the same.

Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council object to the application on the following grounds:

- The proposal is overdevelopment of the site, how much of a percentage increase in volume does it create?;
- It will dominate the streetscene and is completely out of character with the surrounding properties which are period cottages;
- The development is opposite the listed almshouses (Hill Top Cottages) and there is concern that this development is inappropriate within the vicinity of a listed building;
- The Parish Council is completely against the removal of the dry stone wall as it is an historic feature of the area and it is felt that it will be impossible to reinstate it to its original design and appearance;
- There are concerns Shaw Brow will be shut to undertake construction;

10 letters of objection have been received to the application. These can be summarised as:

- The surrounding properties will be dominated and overshadowed by the night and scale of the proposal which will result in a loss of privacy and light and provide an unacceptable sense of enclosure to Shaw Brow;

- The bulk and massing would be visually intrusive and a dominant feature in the streetscene when viewed from a number of angles, including Shaw Brow and the A6;
- The construction of the proposal will cause huge disruption to Shaw Brow which will be unsafe;
- The increase in size will result in more traffic and business to the area and parking on the A6 and Shaw Brow;
- The new function room will increase the amount of excessive noise from the car park and bottle bin, especially as screening will be removed so it will be more audible. Currently people leave the restaurant at staggered intervals over the evening, at a function they will leave at the same time, usually late at night;
- There does not appear to be any landscaping or room for it;
- The gable end [facing down Shaw Brow] will look very stark;
- Damage will be done to the grass strip on Shaw Brow and the stone wall between the site and the allotment to the north;
- The proposal will result in overdevelopment of the site as the character of Preston Road is made up of spacious plots with a relatively low percentage of development, well screened by vegetation;
- No details of the new extraction system have been provided. There are concerns this could cause noise and smells for residents;
- The amount of development on the site would increase rainwater run-off;
- There is confusion over the number parking spaces;
- The level of additional activity including outdoor noise and disturbance is likely to harm residential amenity of neighbouring properties;
- The applicant states that there are no trees or hedges on the site whereas the plans show three trees (one of which is a mature evergreen that provides screening) and a conifer hedge to be felled. These are important in terms of landscape character;
- The proposal will only be 8m away and 7.1m high from the kitchen window of no. 24 Shaw Brow that deprive them of outlook, as they will only see roof. As the slab level of their property is elevated above the application site they will need to maintain the screening hedge at its existing height to preserve their privacy therefore losing light, in addition the proposed roof lights look directly towards no. 24 and will give an impression and feeling of overlooking and loss of privacy;
- No details have been provided of quoins or lintels to see if it fits in with the surroundings;
- There is nothing distinctive about the modern proposal which would detract from the locality with its distinctive traditional stone and rendered cottages. The nationally listed and locally important buildings in the vicinity should be protected from the harmful and unsympathetic design;
- The proposed roofscape of the owners accommodation is inappropriate in terms of massing, visual prominence and scale and the large 'step down' to the next dwelling (no. 22) would mean it would tower over Shaw Brow instead of following the contours of the slope. The design has little respect for the historic, attractive surroundings and would dominate views of Waterhouse Green and at the junction with Far Nook;
- The removal and rebuilding of the stonewall on Shaw Brow would not be to the same standard as currently and would alter the character in a detrimental way;
- The staff and owners accommodation could be incorporated into the hotel business changing the residential nature of Shaw Brow;
- The proposal is contrary to a number of policies in the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents and should be refused;

The majority of these points have been addressed in the report however the following comments are made:

The owners accommodation will have a small garden to the south of the site bounding with no. 24 Shaw Brow. It is considered that having a domestic use against the boundary with this property is the most appropriate to preserve the amenities of this property as much as possible, rather than a commercial part of the building. No. 24 Shaw Brow state they will need to maintain the screening hedge at its existing height, however, the hedge is there at present to preserve privacy as the window faces directly towards the application site. The roof lights have been positioned so they do not result in overlooking or loss of privacy.

The trees to be removed as part of the application would not warrant the protection of a Tree Preservation Order. A condition requiring a landscaping scheme to be submitted is proposed.

A condition is proposed requiring details of any new extraction system to be provided to the satisfaction of the LPA, however it is expected that the existing extraction system will be retained and the extension built around it.

The applicant has contacted LCC Highways regarding the construction of the proposal in relation to Shaw Brow.

An additional condition is proposed relating to the window treatment:

Before development commences, details of the treatment of the proposed external windows and doors in the extension hereby permitted shall have been submitted to and been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The submitted details shall include the materials to be used and their external finish including any reveal (recess), surrounds, cills or lintels.

Reason: In the interest of the character and appearance of the building and in accordance with Policy Nos. GN5 and HS9 of the Adopted Chorley Borough Local Plan Review.

Item 3: 08/01242/FUL - Conversion of existing property to create three 1 bedroom flats.

Since the report was written one letter in support of the application has been received and a further letter from one of the existing objectors has been received.

The letter of support is from a local lettings agency stating that there is a shortage of good quality affordable property for single people or couples in the area and the location of the property gives good access to all local amenities and network links to all surrounding employment areas.

The objector has provided photographs of cars blocking the access to the flats and the parking problems caused by the adjacent florist.

The applicant has slightly amended the plans, showing the existing rear window to the bedroom of flat 1 to be returned, instead of being changed to patio doors.

As the proposal is for private rented accommodation the Strategic Housing have confirmed that there are no minimum floor space standards.

LCC Highways have advised that three parking spaces are required for the development. As the applicant has shown how three spaces can be achieved it is not considered that there are sufficient grounds for refusal on highway grounds.