



# *A guide to Neighbourhood Planning*

## **PRESTON BROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

PRESTON BROOK, PRESTON-ON-THE-HILL, DUTTON

[WWW.PRESTONBROOKPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK](http://WWW.PRESTONBROOKPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK)

## Chairman's Welcome

Dear Residents,

We are delighted to be bringing you our autumn edition of the village newsletter.

This edition will focus on Neighbourhood Planning - the whys and the wherefores, including how Preston Brook can benefit from creating a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council is continuing to tackle key issues within the Parish, and I am pleased to report there have now been three new boulders placed at the entrance to Bridgewater Green to alleviate the problems experienced with the HGVs.

Councillors have recently began using new GDPR-compliant email addresses (listed on the back of this newsletter) and if any residents have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The Council usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month - please check the website for the most up-to-date dates and times.

Cllr Alan Price

## Bridgewater Green Boulders

For several years Bridgewater Green has suffered at the hands of HGV drivers delivering to the Spar. The ground has been regularly churned up, leaving unsightly tyre tracks in the grass.

The Parish Council made many attempts to liaise with the Spar to rectify this issue, but it became apparent that there was a lack of oversight during deliveries and there was no improvement.

The Council had several conversations with the Open Spaces team at Halton Borough Council to resolve the problem. A solution was just a stone's throw away (quite literally) and it was initially agreed that Halton would be able to provide some boulders free of charge. Unfortunately, this didn't eventually come to pass. Instead, the Parish Council made the decision to purchase three new boulders and their installation along the entrance of Bridgewater Green has provided a welcome addition. There are further plans in motion to improve the Green further with planters, and we will report back in future newsletters. In the meantime, we can be sure the grass will remain intact for residents to enjoy.



## Future Meeting Dates

Preston Brook Parish Council usually meets monthly at 8.30pm in Preston Brook Village Hall, Sandy Lane, Preston Brook, Cheshire, WA7 3AW. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and everyone is welcome to attend. Future meeting dates of the Council are below.

26 September 2023    24 October 2023    28 November 2023

## Why is Neighbourhood Planning important?

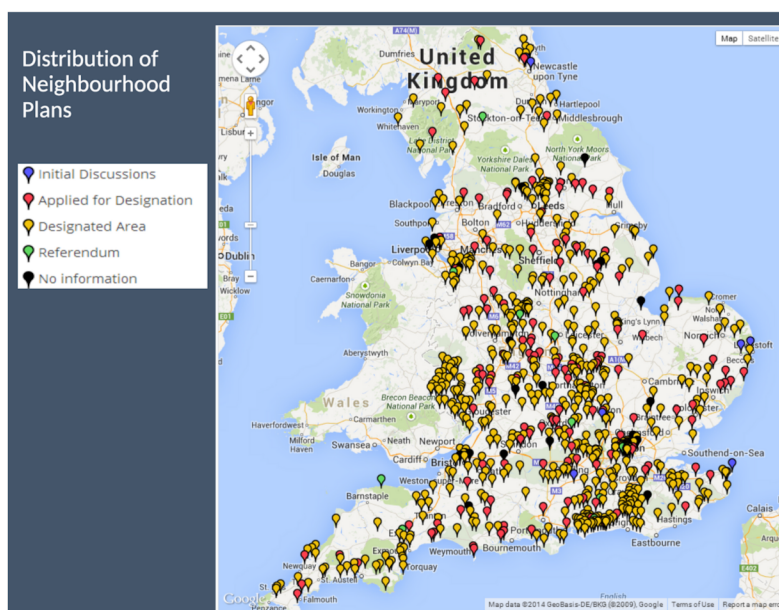
- It was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and is the first time such as local power has been available since pre-1974.
- It is an opportunity to rebuild 'localism' - the concept of decentralising power away from Whitehall and local authorities and back into the hands of local people.
- The planning system is essential for supporting economic growth, improving people's quality of life, and protecting the natural environment.
- Neighbourhood Planning stimulates community awareness of local issues and involves local people in resolving the matters which affect them.
- When 'Made' (adopted) a Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the local statutory development plan and MUST be taken into account by the Local Planning Authority (Halton Borough Council) when making planning decisions [TCPA 1990 S.70(1) (2), P&CPA 2004 S.38(1)(2c)(3)] .
- Therefore, Neighbourhood Planning gives local communities a direct say in decisions that affect them.
- In areas where Neighbourhood Planning does not exist, often the future of where we live continues to be decided elsewhere.
- In areas where a local Neighbourhood Plan exists, it increases the amount of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) a parish council is entitled to receive.

## What is a Neighbourhood Plan (NP)?

- A NP is a statutory development plan which will form part of the Local Development Framework.
- A NP is prepared by a Neighbourhood Forum qualifying body for a particular area.
- It is a document which sets out planning policies in relation to land use in a particular area - guiding development, regeneration and conservation.
- It provides an opportunity to offer the community a chance to shape where they live.
- It offers a chance to create policies to address local issues that are not covered in Halton Borough Council's Local Plan.
- It is a process designed to ensure that neighbourhoods get the right type of development for their area.

## Who has adopted a Neighbourhood Plan?

- 137 Local Planning Authorities contain at least one Neighbourhood Plan.
- As of 2023, there is currently 1,439 adopted plans in England.
- There are not currently any adopted Neighbourhood Plans within Halton Borough Council's administrative boundary.
- Currently, there are 38 adopted plans within the administrative boundary of Cheshire East Council.
- There are 25 adopted plans within the administrative boundary of Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- There is 1 adopted plan within the administrative boundary of Warrington Borough Council.





## What must a Neighbourhood Plan do?

- A NP must be prepared in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy (Halton Borough Council's Local Plan).
- Its policy basis must be rooted in the Localism Act, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and any other local core strategy documents.
- The plan must show clear community initiation - led by local people, for local people (this is a document facilitated by the Council, but not a document of the Council when it is adopted).
- A plan must be based on sound evidence that has been agreed through consultation with the local community.
- The Council cannot discord with the Local Plan and cannot fundamentally work to undermine matters such as growth forecasts (i.e. it cannot plan for less growth than the Local Plan, but it can influence where that growth should take place).
- Ensure a Steering Group is formed that is inclusive and representative of the community.
- A plan must state the time period the plan will cover.

## What is the role of Preston Brook Parish Council?

- The Council has a duty to cooperate with the preparation of the plan and act as the designated 'Neighbourhood Forum', providing facilitation and resource as the designated body to produce the plan.
- The Council must set up a Steering Group and define the geographical extent of the Neighbourhood Area.
- A formal application must be submitted to Halton Borough Council for the designation of the Neighbourhood Area.
- The Council must agreed terms of reference for the Steering Group - the membership of which should include councillors and at least 21 local people who live or work in the area and would like to contribute to shaping its future.
- The Council must raise local awareness and gather a key evidence base - engaging consultants to draft policies, and liaising with the community through workshops, surveys and consultation exercises.

**Would you like to join the Steering Group for the Preston Brook Neighbourhood Plan? Please email:  
[parish.clerk@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)**



### Your Councillors

Cllr Alan Price (Chairman) - [alan.price@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:alan.price@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Jay Walton (Vice Chairman) - [jay.walton@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jay.walton@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Lauren Sanders - [lauren.sanders@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lauren.sanders@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Cathy Murray - [cathy.murray@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.murray@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Mike Marlow - [mike.marlow@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mike.marlow@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Gary Littler - [gary.littler@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:gary.littler@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Peter Bolton - [peter.bolton@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:peter.bolton@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Cllr Mark Hughes - [mark.hughes@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mark.hughes@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Would you like to raise a  
matter with the Council?  
Or have an idea you  
would like to share?**

Please email:  
[parish.clerk@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)