

Contact



Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association



Spring 2018

www.healdgreenratepayers.org.uk

Issue 190

Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association

The work of the Association includes:

- maintaining the local environment particularly streets and local parks;
- ensuring Council services are working effectively in Heald Green;
- helping to create thriving local schools through representation on the Governing Bodies of local schools;
- playing an active role in making sure Council services work well across Stockport;
- working with the Greater Manchester Police Force's local officers on law and order issues;
- representing the interests of Heald Green residents through membership of Manchester Airport Consultative Committee;
- promoting community spirit through involvement in organising events such as the Heald Green Festival.

In 1962 we started our magazine, CONTACT, which is delivered to every house in Heald Green three times a year. CONTACT is our way of keeping in touch with you and letting you know about issues and events in your local community. We also have a website healdgreenratepayers.org.uk and are on facebook. If you're interested in attending meetings, helping out at events, delivering leaflets or litter picks - we'd love to hear from you.

Annual Subscriptions

Our membership year starts on the 1st January, and it's £5 for 2 years. Just complete the tear off slip below and return it with your £5.00 to any of the Committee Members/Councillors, details elsewhere in CONTACT. If you would prefer to pay via BACS, phone Norman Humphreys on 436 4696. Your personal details will NOT be disclosed to any outside body.

Name.....

Address.....

E-Mail/ Phone.....

Please make your cheques payable to Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers Association

Who We Are

The Association is run by a committee. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (except during August) at The Village Hall.

The committee members are:

Chris Walsh (Chairman)	10 Waterford Pl	07974 914417
David Mullin (Deputy Chairman)	12 Hambleton Rd	436 1428
Margaret Burns (Secretary)	8 Westwood Rd	437 7197
Norman Humphreys (Treasurer)	1b St Austell Dr	436 4696
Julian Murray	42 Oakdale Drive	437 8436
Bernadette Murray-Robb	28 Westwood Rd	498 8837
Derek Whitehead	111 Oakdale Dr	437 5418
Owen Morris	36B Elmsleigh Rd	07454 662356
Catherine Stuart	59 Thornton Road	436 3020
Rebecca Turner	4 Bruntwood Ave	07969 697071
Isobel Brittle	136 Queensway	498 8831
Peter Burns	8 Westwood Road	437 7197
Nick Feist	86 Rossendale Rd	286 9400
Julia Brosnan	38 The Oval	07870 306867
Carole McCann	276 Styal Rd	499 2406

Councillors

Councillor Anna Charles-Jones 97 Queensway
283 6568



Councillor Sylvia Humphreys 1b St Austell Drive
436 4696



Councillor Adrian Nottingham 22 Outwood Drive
07701 092930



If you wish to consult your councillors, you can telephone them on the above phone numbers or call in to their surgeries on the first and third Friday of each month (except August) between 6.30 and 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Outwood Rd. You can also send an email to: email@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk.

Annual Report for 2017 from Chairman Chris Walsh

2017 was a busy year for your Association, particularly in the planning field. Following the withdrawal of the original application for a mosque rebuild, one of our councillors attended a meeting at which the ground rules for any further applications were clearly laid down. Eventually, these conditions were strictly followed, last year, when a new acceptable application was approved. Many of us were perturbed by the application to build a multistorey car park at the corner of Finney Lane and Styal Rd. The application was refused but went to appeal at a Public Inquiry. Ratepayers submitted an objection with evidence. The appeal was dismissed, ending the plans.

The arrival of travellers in East Ave Park and then the Outwood fields caused us much concern. Our councillors immediately chased the officers to carry out the legal procedures to have them moved on. Thanks to the councillors' constant pressure, the travellers left as quickly as the law could manage.

The Seashell Trust planning application was a concern throughout the year, which Committee members and Councillors have worked closely on – see facing page for details on this and The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework..

Ongoing work includes being a mainstay of the organisation of the Festival, Carols Round the Tree, the Remembrance Service, and two Litter Picks, etc. We also had two names of residents who laid down their lives for us, added to the village War Memorial. And the daily hard work and dedication of our councillors is vital.

Finally a note on crime. Comparing the figures for Heald Green with the national average see (www.police.uk) the local crime rate is lower than the national average in all crimes, apart from burglary (31% higher which equates to a rough average of about 10 domestic burglaries in the village each month). In areas of criminal activity such as robbery and violent crime the figures for the village are far below the national average (82% and 66%). While it may feel we are suffering a crime wave in the village the official figures do not support this. It is vitally important to make sure households/sheds/vehicles are left secured, and if you a victim of crime please report it to the police so accurate figures are available.

2017 was the 90th Anniversary of the formation of the Association which has supplied all 3 local councillors for 88 years. If you have suggestions and would like to do something to make Heald Green a better place, do get in touch. All best wishes to all residents for the coming year.

Planning Matters

Seashell Trust Planning Application

Several previous issues of CONTACT have reported on the Seashell Trust planning application. Their intention was to rebuild their facilities and pay for it by building 325 houses on the Greenbelt fields.. The application was finally refused by Stockport's Planning Committee in January. Although the Committee was supportive of the Trust and its wonderful work, they were not persuaded that the Very Special Circumstances, which planning applicants must prove to build in the Greenbelt, had been demonstrated. One of the main considerations mentioned was that the projected costs of the rebuild were several times higher than similar schools, and the sale of Greenbelt land for housing was not necessary, as the rebuild could be accomplished within the Trust's existing finances. In addition, Council policy requires that 50% of the houses provided should be affordable, but the applicant was only proposing 30%.

A representative of the Ratepayers' Committee, together with a member of the dedicated Action Group, spoke against the application at the Cheadle and Bramhall Area Committees, Ratepayers' councillors also spoke against it. The Ratepayers councillor on the main Planning Committee also voted for refusal. The applicant may now choose to appeal against the refusal to the Secretary of State. In this case, there will be a Public Inquiry, At the time of writing, we are waiting to see what the applicant does. See our website and Facebook page for developments.

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Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Local Plan

The next issue of the Spatial Framework is not expected until June. In the meantime Ratepayers and the Ratepayer Councillors have been busy behind the scenes, looking at ways of reducing the proposed impact on Heald Green. This will be continuing over the coming months.

One document, recently produced by Stockport, is known as the "Brownfield Register". This details all sites in Stockport which have previously been built on and which could be used for housebuilding. This is a "live" document and if you know of any Brownfield site in Stockport, check to ensure it is in the Register and, if not, let us know.

In the meantime Stockport has started work on its Local Plan, which will eventually become Stockport's policies for all planning applications. We are monitoring and contributing to this, as it progresses

Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 89th Annual General Meeting of the Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association is to be held at Café Unity, 228 Finney Lane, on Tuesday, 20th March, commencing at 7.30pm. The agenda is:

- To receive apologies for absence.
- To confirm the Minutes of the previous AGM.
- To receive the Annual Report.
- To receive the Financial Report.
- To elect officers for the ensuing year.
- To elect members of the committee.
- To nominate a candidate for election to Stockport Council.
- To appoint an Independent Examiner for the ensuing year.
- To determine the annual subscription.
- Any other relevant business.

Please send nominations for the committee to the secretary by 13th March 2018. The accounts will be published on the Ratepayers' website prior to the meeting and will be available at the meeting.

East Avenue Park

The Friends of East Ave Park Group is delighted with two picnic benches which have just been installed. After much discussion with Stockport Council, the group chose these exciting and accessible rainbow picnic benches and tables. Our local Ratepayer councillors helped to fund them with a Council grant as well as the Friends' own fundraising efforts. The Group is holding another Easter Egg Hunt on 8th April, after last year's success. Watch their website for details. The group would welcome more helpers.



Spring Litter Pick

Play your part in the National Keep Britain Tidy Spring Campaign and join the Ratepayers' Community Litter Pick on Saturday March 17th, 10.00am – midday. We will assemble outside Café Unity, Finney Lane just before 10.00am Just bring some warm clothing and good strong footwear. We will supply the black bin bags, gloves and litter pickers. When we have finished we are all invited to a free drink and a piece of cake in the Café, courtesy of the HGRP.

Adrian Nottingham, one of 3 Heald Green Councillors, reports on the key issues they are taking forward on behalf of residents

The needs and aspirations of Heald Green are our number one priority. Last year the plan for housing growth to the year 2035 (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/GMSF>) was published. It suggested that Heald Green would see an additional 4,700 homes built over that period, with the consequent loss of most of our existing Greenbelt land! This is a wholly disproportionate and



unacceptable plan, which we, along with many of you, continue to robustly resist.

Heald Green has grown incrementally over the years whilst maintaining a sense of community, which has made it a very popular place. However, if you want to start a family or to spend your retirement here, you will be very aware of the chronic

shortage of affordable options. It is time for some growth and we do need to see the building of some new homes. But they must be the right sort and the right number in the right place. And until we see real and tangible improvements in our roads, public transport, schools and health provision - any additional homes will put an intolerable strain on our existing resources, and therefore should not go ahead. For us, this is a red line - we need to be building communities not just houses.

Having pushed back hard on the first GMSF (Greater Manchester Spatial Framework), we know that the second iteration is due to be published and go out to public consultation around June of this year.

We would love and need to hear from you on this critical matter. What are our current housing needs? What sort of homes would you like to see built? Where in Heald Green should new homes be built? How do we ensure we are building communities? These are just some of the questions that we would value hearing your insights into. The public consultation will offer the opportunity for you to have your say, but in addition, if you can speak to one of us (contact details in the CONTACT or via <https://www.stockport.gov.uk>), then we can ensure that we represent your views in the many meetings and forums that we participate in, on this vital matter. We will endeavor to continue keeping you informed on this and all other matters that affect our lives here. Thank you for your support.

90 Years Young

The Heald Green Ratepayers Association recently celebrated its 90th anniversary at the Village Hall. Several hundred residents attended for a day of reminiscence, with displays, talks, conversation and song. Visitors also enjoyed a slice of a specially commissioned cake – pictured on the front cover. Dave Mullin, Deputy Chairman of HGRP, who organised the event said: “People tend to stay a long time in Heald Green and we saw many old friends on the day, as well as youngsters keen to learn about how their grandparents and great-grandparents lived and worked”



There was also a Kids Day Out at Manchester Airport for 30 local children. The visit took place at the Runways Visitors Park and was sponsored by the Manchester Airport Community Fund. The children spent time in the DC-10 static aircraft learning about the airport and its workforce as well as a tour of the viewing park.

There is currently an exhibition at the library celebrating Heald Green's history. It runs until the end of March.

Heald Green Community Festival

30th June is the date for the Heald Green Community Festival, held each year on the Playing Fields on Outwood Rd. The Festival starts with a Parade round the field at 12.30pm, where everyone can join in. The Junior Football Tournament will be played on the day too. There will be the usual entertainment, food and stalls as well as some new activities.

Preparations have already started but if you've got some fresh ideas let's hear from you by ringing Charles on 485 3397. You don't have to join the committee but more ideas, suggestions and helpers would make the Festival better. If you want a stall, apply online through the Festival website. Look out for your free programme through the door and Grand Draw tickets available in the village on Saturday mornings in June.