

# A Parish Plan for Christleton?

In the New Year, Christleton Parish Council will be encouraging interest in producing a Parish Plan, something that many other parishes in the area have already completed.

## **What is it?**

A Parish Plan is a document that aims to set out how a village community sees itself developing and moving forward into the future. The plan is based on a survey that collects the opinions and views of those who live and work in the community and identifies the steps needed to take a village or parish forwards. It could cover employment, traffic issues, design of new buildings or economic issues; the community decides what it wants to see covered.

## **Who produces it?**

The Parish Council is only one small part of the process and usually has limited representation on the Parish Plan Group which is drawn from a wide range of people living in, working in and influencing the community. Volunteers carry out the survey, create the action plan and implement the actions. The Parish Plan Group drives the project, usually in collaboration with the Parish Council, the Local Authority and a wide range of other agencies and partners.

## **How is it produced?**

The Parish Plan Group is formed after an initial community consultation. This group then gathers information and data which is analyzed in order to form the action plan. These actions are then implemented with ongoing monitoring and review. There is help, guidance and support available from various sources.

## **Why produce one?**

Over 40 Parish Plans have now been completed in the Cheshire/Warrington/Halton area and experience has shown that they bring a wide range of benefits. As well as providing a basis for action by people in the parish it encourages a community spirit and fosters the formation of new partnerships. It can provide valuable information and data to back up fund raising and grant applications and will influence decision making by Cheshire West & Chester on planning issues. More tangible outcomes in other parishes include setting up youth facilities, creating wildlife reserves and setting up recycling centres; producing a Parish Plan for Christleton will identify what our community would like to see. It will give us a clearer voice on planning matters and traffic management issues.

## **What does a Parish Plan look like?**

There is no standard format and no prescriptive list of issues it should cover. The Cheshire Community Action website ([www.cheshireaction.org.uk](http://www.cheshireaction.org.uk)) gives easy access to many plans that have been completed.

## **What will happen next?**

Early next year the Parish Council is hoping to raise awareness in the community before arranging a public meeting to gauge interest and form a Parish Plan Group. For further information or to express an interest joining the group please contact Sue Mallows ([suemallows@hotmail.com](mailto:suemallows@hotmail.com), 01244 335527).