

# AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

**Richard Furber, Chairman of the Parish Council says ...**

**The Annual Village Meeting** in May 2007 was one of the first highlights of the past year. Lucy Johnson spoke on 'Visit Chester & Cheshire', Dr Russell Muirhead spoke about Audlem Medical Practice, Bob Cartwright updated us on The Parish Plan, and Andrew Smith spoke on behalf of the Audlem Traders Association. It was a very informative evening – thanks to the speakers.

**Youth Parish Council** - The first meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November and special thanks must go to Claire Whitley and Lynn Pickthall from Brine Leas High School, and Nick Jarvis, Police Community Support Officer for their guidance and support. Monthly meetings are held at 6.30pm on Parish Council meeting nights but we are struggling to get a good response, so I would urge anyone interested to come along to those meetings. The dates will be on the noticeboard in the centre of the village.

**Vale Project** - Sadly our offer for the land was rejected so currently we are unable to proceed.

**Dioramas** - Two dioramas have been installed in the village, one by the canal and one on the car park. They have been provided by our winnings in the Calor Village of the Year competition, and we trust they will help our visitors to find their way around our beautiful village.

**Community Pride** - We were delighted to be a winner again in the Best Kept Village competition, and thanks must go to all who work so tirelessly to keep our village looking so good with particular mention for our village caretaker

Gavin Davies. We were also thrilled that Audlem Action for Youth was declared joint winners of the children's award for putting on the Funky weekend. Also we are all aware how beautiful our cemetery is, and we invariably get full marks for it. Thanks to the Burial Committee and staff.

**Fire Cadets** - I was very pleased to attend the Audlem Fire Cadet Unit Presentation Parade on 11<sup>th</sup> November when the newly trained Fire Cadets were awarded their certificates. We should be very proud of them and our appreciation must go to Isobel Sykes and the rest of the staff who have willingly given of their time. Congratulations to Isobel on being awarded the MBE in the New Year's honours.

**Canalside Yard** - We were thrilled to see the new Co-op store open in December; it is a much improved shop to its predecessor with a wider range of goods on offer. However it has caused many traffic problems in that part of the village. The Parish Council objected to the plans as they could foresee that there would be such problems but were assured that deliveries would be to the rear of the shops. However this does not appear to be the case at the moment.

**Ambulance Response Times** - These are a very contentious issue with some high profile problems during the past year or so. We find that official figures presented to us are frequently incorrect

**First Responders** - We are grateful to the volunteers who have now started their training, but this again is contentious with the North West

Ambulance Service downgrading the service.

**Children's Playground** - New equipment has been installed but we are looking to modernise the area further. We are currently obtaining quotations.

**A525** - We are still hopeful that this main road through the village will be de-primed in due course.

**Village Organisations and Events** -

We continue to appreciate the efforts of the various organisations which put on so many activities during the year. **www.audlem.org** is well used and informative with topical and fun items. The campaign to move the Welsh border to Audlem created much discussion and lots of fun and - what's more - gave us recognition nationally and internationally, which must bring more visitors into the area. Audlem online can be accessed from the terminals in the tourist office in Williams newsagent in the square.

**Ken Jones resigned from the Parish Council this year. Thank you Ken for your commitment to the village during your time as a councillor.**

**Finally, thank you to the Parish Councillors who give freely of their time, Jean White, our Clerk, and John Kemble, our Responsible Financial Officer.**

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Using the annual precept from Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council, the Parish Council aims to maintain and improve the local environment and quality of life for local residents, whilst promoting and supporting Audlem's community organisations and businesses.

The following is a brief summary of the accounts for 2008

<u>Income</u>	£
Brought forward	8,042
Crewe & Nantwich BC	29,249
Other income	<u>10,746</u>
Total income	48,037

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Staff	4,828
Running costs	4,672
Newsletters/flyers	1,148
Insurance	885
Audit	363
Donations	5,775
Projects etc	<u>16,275</u>
Total expenditure	33,946

Amount carried forward 14,091

The carry forward figure includes ring-fenced funds in surplus of £3,020.

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Your Parish Councillors are:

Richard Furber – Chairman	811598	Kate Down - Vice Chairman	811160
Frances Christie	811340	Bill Consterdine	811647
Mike Hill	811843	Norman Huntbach	812768
Pam Seddon	811282	Geoff Stretch	811011
Andrew Smith	811969	Irene Stockton	811828
Peter Morgan	811575	Philip Bradbury-Smith	811021

Parish Council meetings will take place in St James's School, Heathfield Road, commencing at 7.30 pm, on the following dates: Monday September 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>, Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Monday December 1<sup>st</sup>.