

14th January 2015

Henbury Parish Council, 14th January 2015

The PC intends to provide a precis of any important discussions at its bi-monthly meetings, and offer these for publication in the Parish Magazine and the Henbury website.

The Local Plan. Cheshire East (CE) submitted its Local Plan in May 2014. The intention is to designate sufficient land for building sites to satisfy demand for the next 20 years. The expectation is that, once the Plan is adopted, planning permission will only be granted for sites designated within the Plan. Extensive consideration was given to the likely level of economic development, which affects the total housing requirement, and to the practicality of possible sites. Henbury PC and Henbury Society observed the process closely. An Inspector started public hearings in September, but discontinued in October and gave an interim report to CE in November. In his view the Plan did not provide sufficient sites for building: the number should be increased from 27500 to 40000. CE will reconsider and intend to submit a revised Local Plan in June. A progress report is expected early in February.

Henbury PC is concerned because a large increase in designated sites might involve encroachment into green belt land, for whose protection the PC and the Society have argued and fought for two decades. The question was: whether to make a further submission to CE in time for consideration during the current revision, or possibly to undertake a full-scale Neighbourhood Plan, which would involve considerable time, effort and expense.

Roger Cousin, Chairman of the Henbury Society, attended the meeting and was invited by the Chairman to contribute to the discussion. He agreed with the PC that a joint submission should be drafted by him and members of the PC, with the intention of sending it CE within a few weeks. The agreed text will be published on the Henbury website.

Footpaths. The PC received a report from the Footpaths Committee, which was set up in response to the Parish Plan in 2011 (See the Henbury website). The PC will consult Roy Vickery, who is the local Footpaths Inspector of the Ramblers Association.

Christmas Tree. The PC noted the general satisfaction with the new siting of the Tree in the triangle east of the Church, and agreed to provide for costs in next year's budget.

Henbury Environmental Project. Funding is once again being provided for the project by the Parish Council, and this will provide for up to 300m of new hedging to be planted by Parish volunteers this winter. Work is planned to start on Sunday Jan 24th and more volunteers are always welcome – please contact Simon Browne (sbrowne@tesco.net or tel: 267824) for more details.