

19th March 2015

Henbury Parish Council, 19th March 2015

The Council meeting was the last before the General Election of May 7th. All members will stand for re-election, and there is at present one vacancy. No further nominations have been received as yet.

The newly elected Council will meet on May 21st.

Local Plan. Cheshire East's Local Plan is still being revised to meet the Inspector's comments. The importance of the more truly local Neighbourhood Plans which are prepared by parish councils is becoming more widely appreciated, and several nearby councils have already started preparing plans. Henbury PC intends to explore the process by consulting with CE. The central theme of a Neighbourhood Plan is the designation of sites for potential new houses; the PC noted that two probable developments, at Home Farm (School Lane) and at Barlow's (Anderton Lane) would make a substantial response to any pressure for increased housing in Henbury.

Footpaths. The PC takes responsibility for advising CE on the state of all public rights of way. Two paths are in trouble at present:

In the reorganisation of Sandbach Farm a new barbed wire fence has been erected which encroaches on a path near Henbury Moss. The PC will press for the fence to be moved.

The footpath from Henbury Rise to Whirley Lane, which is heavily used particularly by schoolchildren, and is practically an urban route rather than rural, is constantly in need of maintenance. At present it is muddy and needs resurfacing, while in the summer every year it becomes overgrown with nettles and hawthorn. The PC will press for a commitment by CE to improve and maintain this important route.

Environmental Project. The PC congratulated Councillor Simon Browne on the success of the five-year Environmental Project, in which 2½ kilometres of hedge and several substantial stands of trees have now been planted in the Parish. Funds will be made available for planting to continue next season.