

# Newsletter



Christmas Tree Lights Switch – on

Astley Village Development Plan

Litter Picking - Residents Views

# WELCOME TO ASTLEY VILLAGE

Astley Village Parish Council





# Chair's Report

Welcome to our newsletter for Winter 2024.



## Cllr Eddie Murdoch

It was with great sadness that we learned that Cllr Eddie Murdoch passed away on Sunday 28 April 2024. Eddie was a valued member of the Parish Council and he is much missed.

## Community Skip Day

In conjunction with Chorley Council and Places for People, another successful community skip day was held on Saturday 29 June 2024. Residents were helped to dispose of unwanted household items to help keep the village clean and safe.

## Parking Issues in the Village

Events held at the former site of Chorley Rugby Union club in May and July 2024, resulted in more dangerous parking in the village. Councillors liaised efficiently with the event organisers, the Police and Borough Councillors regarding this issue. Residents also helped by reporting any incidents and also attending the Parish Council meeting in July to express their concerns.



## Nature Reserve

The Parish Council have recently funded the refurbishment at the West Way Nature Reserve at a cost of £5,000, including the installation of new interpretation boards at the West Way Nature Reserve.



## Chorley Flower Show 2024

In July, Parish Councillors had a stall at the popular Chorley Flower Show event for the third year running. As always, the event took place in Astley Park. We met lots of people from the village who were very interested in the work of the Parish Council and the successful projects we have provided support for. The Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir. Lindsay Hoyle MP also popped by to chat to Parish Councillors.



## Sponsorship of Astley & Buckshaw JFC Girls team

The Parish Council were pleased to be approached to sponsor Astley & Buckshaw Juniors FC – girls under 7s team. I joined Cllr Keith Ashton along with the team for a photo on 15 October 2024. We wish the team the best of luck for the season!



## Christmas 2024 event

This year's Christmas event will take place on Friday 6 December 2024 between 6pm and 9pm. We will gather to sing carols outside the community centre and light the Christmas tree. Afterwards, refreshments will be served. We hope you'll be able to join us for this popular, annual village event!



## Astley Village - Radar Speed Signs

During the Spring of 2024, the wires were cut to the solar panel for the radar speed sign on Chancery Road (near Wymundsley) and it was just running on battery power. This was repaired in May 2024 but only a few weeks later, a resident made the Parish Council aware that both radar speed signs on Chancery Road had been vandalised and the wires had been cut meaning it could not get charged from the solar panel. Both signs have now been repaired but if you are aware of who caused the damage, please contact one of the Parish Councillors.



Parish Councillors attended Chorley's Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 10 November 2024. The Chair laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. Where possible, poppies were also attached to street signs throughout the village in the week before Armistice Day



Most people living within Astley Village are aware that the village was built long after the end of World War 2. Some have even commented on the relevance of the garden of remembrance, the poppies on the street signs, in a village which was built in the 1970s with building continuing into the 1990s.

As Remembrance is about commendation not celebration, I ask you to think on this. Next year 2025 marks 80 years since the end of the World War 2, meaning even the youngest of soldiers in 1945 will now be approaching 100 years of age.

That war will soon pass from living memory to history books. Surely that is worth commendation because if we do not learn from our mistakes of the past we will repeat them?

As already mentioned, the Parish Councillors attended Chorley's Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 10 November 2024 and the Chair laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. The wreath does not just commemorate the World Wars of the 20th Century, it also commemorates all campaigns, war, and emergencies we asked our young people to deal with, and the fact some never came back.

Councillor Gillian Sharples

Chair of the Parish Council

### COUNCILLOR CASUAL VACANCY



Astley Village Parish Council have three vacancies for Parish Councillors, which will be filled by co-option.

Any person wishing to serve as a Councillor should write to the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk, contact details are on page 15, giving details and information about themselves, background and why they wish to become a Parish Councillor.

To qualify, the applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be 18 years of age and;
- appear on the current register of the Voters List; or during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish; or
- during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date
- have occupied within the parish their only place of work.

Applicants must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor (further information is available by contacting the Parish Clerk)

# Astley Village Development Plan

Our Current Plan can be found on the Parish Council Web Site and was updated in January 2024.

## Interpretation Boards at the West Way Nature Reserve

Two new interpretation boards have recently been installed, one at each entrance to the reserve.



## Wildflower seeding and wildlife corridors

The adverse weather conditions this year meant that no new seeding was done. However, bulbs planted and seeding from previous years meant that a variety of flowers were to be seen along Chancery Road along with self-seeded plants in the unmown areas.



There was a spectacular display of Ladies Bedstraw between The Farthings and Long Copse with the accompanying smell of honey, especially strong when the sun was shining!



Buttercups and Cows Parsley and one or two orchids were very evident at the same time.

## Friendly Benches

You may have seen that “Happy to Chat” notices have been added to two of our existing benches, in front of the shops and the one on the village green adjacent to the school. Let us know if you think this is a good idea or not.



A reminder that the Parish Council have set aside funds to put additional benches around the village. We would like your ideas for where we could put these. Please use our email address, [clerk@avpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@avpc.org.uk), and let us know.

## Planting for the Garden of Reflection

The Parish Council have agreed for this to go ahead but have yet to engage a contractor to carry out the work.

## Access Paths to West Way Sports Hub and Improvements to the Chancery Road Underpass

The Parish Council continues to work in partnership with the Borough on both these projects and we hope to be able to report progress on them soon.

## New Projects?

Whilst the Parish Council's income is relatively small we are always looking for ideas on how we spend the money. We can initiate small capital projects, provided we can get permission from landowners as necessary. Please get in touch through the clerk's email address, as above, if you have any ideas you would like us to consider. Please note, we do not wish to commit funds to revenue projects.

Councillor Chris Sheldon

# Litter Picking and Residents Views

Our monthly litter picks (on the first Saturday morning of each month – 10 am until 11 am) continue to take place meeting at the Community Centre. We are never short of litter to pick up but unfortunately, we only have a few reliable volunteers who meet up and do a really worthwhile job of clearing litter and help to keep Astley Village a pleasant place to walk through.

Litter hotspots are the areas around the village centre near to the bench opposite the pharmacy and the shrubbery near to the takeaway and small car park adjacent to the post box. The paths leading down through the underpass towards the West Way playing fields and the paths leading to the school and the zebra crossing continue to attract 'litter louts'.

With the large numbers of cans and glass and plastic bottles being collected, Astley Village Parish Council have asked Chorley Borough Council about the possibility of two dual purpose - general litter/ recycling bins to be installed, to replace the smaller bins by the Buckshaw Primary School bus-stop and near the shops. It would be good for the litter picking volunteers to be able to recycle this type of waste, cleaning up the village AND helping the planet!!!!

Whilst we were out on our last litter pick, several residents stopped to talk to us about village matters. The state of the approaches to the underpass were mentioned, together with complaints about the lack of clear lighting near to the zebra crossing. Pedestrians complained about the dark paths at this location and the motorists mentioned the poor visibility - partially caused by the dim lighting but also the low branches of the trees. Pedestrians, especially children, approaching the crossing need to be well lit and clearly seen.

This conversation then turned to the speed at which some local residents and other motorists drive their cars through the village.

Astley Village Parish Council has contacted the County Councillor responsible for representing our village at County level, with regard to complaints from residents, especially those with mobility issues, who use shopping trolleys and walkers when using the bus service not having a dropped kerb at the Long Croft Meadow bus stop.

This was the response from Lancashire County Council:

"Our Highways Technician attended Chancery Road to conduct an inspection. The Officer has raised an order for two additional mobility crossings, unfortunately this will not be directly next to the bus stop in question due to the limited visibility. The sweeping bend in the road would create a road safety concern for pedestrians if we located one directly at the bus stop."



The two mobility crossings mentioned have been installed by Buckshaw Hall Close and at the bus stop for Mimosa Close!

Neither of these stops are helpful to residents using paths which come from Long Croft Meadow, Broadfields, Studfold or Foxcote.

What are your views on the Parish Council trying to get some speeding motorists to reduce their speed with extra road markings and signage? We have the speed indicators but are stronger methods needed? **Residents' views are always welcomed by the Parish Council.** Contact details are shown at the back of the newsletter.

Councillor Keith Ashton

### ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

The village newsletter is produced by the Parish Council and distributed to all Astley Village homes. It has spaces for local businesses to advertise to subsidise the cost of its printing and distribution in Spring and Winter. A total print for the newsletter is 1600, delivered by local distributor to every house, just short of 1500 properties in Astley Village.

Besides this delivery, the Parish Council gives a supply to the Community Centre for visitors to collect, the shops and at Derian House. Also, the newsletter appears on the website.

<b>Full Page Adverts</b>	Size: A5, artwork produced, £70 per issue.
<b>Half Page Adverts</b>	Size: half A5, artwork produced, £45 per issue.
<b>Quarter Page Adverts</b>	Size: quarter A5, artwork produced, £25 per issue

### SMALL GRANTS FUND

The Parish Council can offer grants to local organised groups for local projects. The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands of pounds but can make a real difference.

If your group would like to apply, all they need to do is submit an application form with some details. A copy of the grant criteria and application form are on the Parish Council website: [www.avpc.org.uk](http://www.avpc.org.uk)

# Christmas 2024

We are pleased to say that this year's Christmas Carol Singing will be similar to last years' event. From the feedback we have received last year, we will be gathering at at 6pm on Friday 6 December 2024 outside the Community Centre.



The Christmas Tree lights will be ceremoniously switched on, followed by the Carol Singing. We will be singing well known Christmas songs, followed by FREE refreshments provided in the Community Centre.

So come along and join us in welcoming the festive season!



## Blair Foot Care

Mobile Foot Health Practitioner

**Mobile Foot Health Practitioner providing a range of treatments in the comfort of your own home.**

Treatments start from £25 and include:

- Foot health check
- Nail trim and file
- Corn removal
- Callous reduction
- Fungal nail treatment
- Athlete's foot treatment
- Advice on foot and heel pain
- Verruca treatment
- Full Pedicure - £35

Please add £5 consultation fee for first appointment

To book an appointment contact Alison  
0779 290 9120  
alisonblairfootcare@gmail.com



COLLEGE OF FOOT HEALTH



## Community Noticeboard

The Parish Council's Community notice board is mounted on the shop wall, near to the Pharmacy entrance and is now being used as a Community notice board where groups can post messages about Community activities, events etc.

Email any notices to the Parish Clerk [clerk@avpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@avpc.org.uk)

# YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!



Astley Village Parish Council has exciting opportunities for you to become one of our next Parish Councillors!

You can get involved with projects in the community and help shape our village development plan.

To qualify, the applicants must:

- be 18 years of age and;
- appear on the current register of the Voters List; or during the whole of the 12 months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within 3 miles of the parish; or during the whole of the 12 months preceding the relevant date have occupied within the parish their only place of work.

**Applicants must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor.**

**Parish Councillors are required to attend six full council meetings per year (one every other month).**

For more information, please email: [clerk@avpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@avpc.org.uk)

Website: [www.avpc.org.uk](http://www.avpc.org.uk)  
Facebook: [@astleyvillageparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/@astleyvillageparishcouncil)

# Real Madrid Arrive at Astley and Buckshaw Junior Football Club

UEFA Champions League winners and La Liga champions Real Madrid arrived in Astley Village this summer - for a skills masterclass with Astley and Buckshaw Junior Football Club.

The event at West Way Sports Hub saw more than 68 boys and girls from Astley and Buckshaw Junior Football Club take part in sessions organised by coaches from the Spanish giants.

They learned close passing skills, shooting techniques and hints and tricks to enhance their playing credentials.



The masterclass came as Astley and Buckshaw Junior Football Club celebrated its 20th anniversary. The club, which provides playing opportunities for more than 500 children each week continues to grow in size, including a 500% increase in the number of girls playing on a regular basis.

Chair Darren Marsden said: "It was a real honour to have Real Madrid join us and share their knowledge and expertise with our junior stars.

"To have such a big club join us shows us just how far we've come in the last two decades, and our players didn't look out of place mixing it with the coaching staff.

"We're certain we'll uncover a few new Jude Bellinghams and Lionesses over the next 20 years!"



The Parish Council can offer grants to local organised groups for local projects. The grants available are in the hundreds, not thousands of pounds but can make a real difference. At the Parish Council Meeting on 3 January 2024, it was agreed to sponsor one place at this event. The place was given to a talented young girl attending Buckshaw Primary School following a recommendation

by her headteacher and following her attending the event she has joined Astley and Buckshaw Junior Football Club and is a regular member of the team.



Search Astley and Buckshaw Junior Football Club on Facebook to find out more about opportunities to play.





## Chorley Flower Show 2024



On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July, Parish Councillors once again had a presence at the popular Chorley Flower Show event. We experienced a couple of downpours on the Friday, but the weather picked up on the Saturday and we were met with blue sky, sunshine and high temperatures.



As always, the event was very well attended. We met lots of people from the village and we took the opportunity to talk to them and promote the work of the Parish Council, and the various initiatives we have supported. In addition, we gave away some free spider plants, which were much appreciated

by visitors! Thanks to Cllr Emma Barraclough for growing these in preparation for the flower show.

## Parish Councillor Contact Details

Councillor Gillian Sharples  
(Chair)  
Wymundsley, Astley Village  
Tel: 07850 074326  
Email: [cllr.gillian.sharples@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.gillian.sharples@avpc.org.uk)



Councillor Keith Ashton  
Long Croft Meadow,  
Astley Village  
Tel: 07722 455949  
Email: [cllr.keith.ashton@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.keith.ashton@avpc.org.uk)



Councillor Emma Barraclough  
Broadfields, Astley Village  
Email: [cllr.emma.barraclough@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.emma.barraclough@avpc.org.uk)



Councillor Matt Lynch  
Buckshaw Hall Close,  
Astley Village  
Tel: 07922 281300  
Email: [cllr.matt.lynch@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.matt.lynch@avpc.org.uk)



Councillor John McAndrew  
(Vice-Chair)  
The Farthings, Astley Village  
Tel: 01257 262914  
Email: [cllr.john.mcandrew@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.john.mcandrew@avpc.org.uk)



Councillor Chris Sheldon  
The Farthings, Astley Village  
Tel: 01257 266463  
Email: [cllr.chris.sheldon@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.chris.sheldon@avpc.org.uk)



Councillor Ian Thomas  
466, Blackburn Road, Darwen  
Telephone: 07952 233211  
Email: [cllr.ian.thomas@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.ian.thomas@avpc.org.uk)



## Parish Council Information

You can contact the Parish Clerk, Craig Ainsworth by emailing him at [clerk@avpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@avpc.org.uk) or write to him at Astley Village Parish Council, 5 Clarendon Gardens BL7 9GW.

Visit the Parish Council website for information such as meeting minutes and other interesting information: [www.avpc.org.uk](http://www.avpc.org.uk)

Parish Council Meetings are normally at 6.30pm on the first Wednesday of alternate months, at the Community Centre, Hallgate, Astley Village. Meetings will be held on:

Wednesday 8 January 2025  
Wednesday 5 March 2025  
Wednesday 7 May 2025  
(Annual Meeting)  
Wednesday 2 July 2025  
Wednesday 3 September 2025  
Wednesday 5 November 2025  
Wednesday 7 January 2026  
Wednesday 4 March 2026  
(at the rise of the Parish Meeting).

Parish Newsletters are published in Spring and Winter and delivered to all homes in Astley Village, a circulation of nearly 1600.

The Parish Council has two notice boards located one at the junction of Chancery Road and Hallgate and the other, in the village centre next to the Community Centre.



## Useful Contacts



Village issues relating to litter, trees & hedges, fly tipping and graffiti. Also, your household waste collection service. Report directly to Chorley Council on: **01257 515151**

or at: <https://main.chorley.gov.uk/>

You will need to register at 'my account' then you can report any issue directly and pinpoint on a map.



Places for People residents also have the option of contacting Places for People should any matters fall within their service charges such as littering, fly tipping etc.

Get in touch - You can contact us by telephone on 01772 667002.

Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm (excluding bank holidays). When you call, please have your property reference number, house number or postcode ready.

Emergency repairs - All emergency repairs need to be reported by phone. Please call us immediately on 01772 667002. The line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Emergency repairs that should be reported immediately include:

- Gas leaks
- Uncontainable water leaks
- Complete loss of heating and hot water
- Electrical or fire risk
- Property security

An emergency repair is any problem that could be a security risk or cause harm to you, another person or to your property.

Hard of hearing? - Customers who are hard of hearing can text us on 07790 886 967.

Translations - We can use the Big Word language service to translate if English is not your first language.



If you need to report any Lancashire County Council faults such as problems with pavements, roads, street lights, flooding, bollards, gritting or any main infra-structure items you can do this simply online at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>

or telephone Highways reports on: **0300 123 6780**



Lancashire Police offer a free crime alert messaging service. If you would like to receive these free crime alerts you can do so by filling in some basic details at: [www.stayintheknow.co.uk](http://www.stayintheknow.co.uk)

You can also report crimes via the internet at: <https://tinyurl.com/y92qm4um>

Chorley Police Station	<b>01257 269021</b>
Central Control Centre	<b>101</b>
Crimestoppers (anonymous reporting)	<b>0800 555 111</b>
All emergency calls	<b>999</b>





# Christmas Carol Singing

Friday 6 December 2024

6pm - 8pm

Starting with carol singing at 6pm,  
round the Village Christmas Tree  
(in front of the Community Centre)

**FREE Refreshments**  
provided after the carols have  
been sung

Organised by Astley Village Parish Council

