



Annual Report 2023-2024

Buckshaw Primary School

Astley Village Development Plan

# WELCOME TO ASTLEY VILLAGE

Astley Village Parish Council





## Annual Report 2023/2024

### A year as Chair

I was honoured to be elected as Chair of Astley Village Parish Council at the Annual Council Meeting which took place on Wednesday 10 May 2023. I have enjoyed this role and I have developed my experience of chairing meetings, as well as attending the Chorley Liaison meetings and developing more knowledge of Parish Council activities and how we can make a real difference to the local community.

### Astley Village Garden of Reflection

The garden of reflection project was finished, with the installation of two new trees, which commemorated the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of King Charles III. In addition, three benches were installed to commemorate the golden and diamond jubilees of Queen Elizabeth II and her life. There are also plaques commemorating these events too.

In the lead up to Armistice Day, the “unknown Tommy” statue was also installed.



### New Play Area

A brand-new play area at the West Way Sports Hub was opened by Chorley Borough and Parish Councillors and pupils from Buckshaw Primary School. The play area was jointly funded by Chorley Borough Council and Astley Village Parish Council.

The new addition sees brand-new state of the art equipment for children aged 1 to 12 years, including a base climb unit inspired by the athletic disciplines of parkour, free running, and Ninja Warrior style challenges.

The play area has proved a popular addition to the West Way Sports Hub area.



## West Way Nature Reserve

Following the installation of the path which leads to West Way Nature Reserve, we are liaising with Chorley Borough Council in order to install two new interpretation boards and we hope to progress this over the coming months.



## Improvements to the footpath from Buckshaw Primary School to Clough Acre

The Parish Council contributed towards the improvements made to the footpath from Buckshaw Primary School to Clough Acre.

## Dangerous Parking in Astley Village

The Police attended the November Parish Council Meeting and agreed to explore with Lancashire County Council the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders at the junctions of Studfold, Buckshaw Hall Close, Hallgate and Long Croft Meadow in view of the dangerous parking taking place.



## Chorley Flower Show

Once again, the Parish Council had a stall at the popular, annual Chorley Flower Show event, which took place from 28 – 30 July 2023. Information was available regarding our Village and the plans we have for future improvements. Councillors were also available for a face-to-face chat throughout the weekend to answer queries from residents and other visitors.

## Remembrance Sunday/Poppies in the Parish

Parish Councillors attended Chorley's Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 12 November 2023. As Chair, I was honoured to lay 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.



## Monthly Litter Picks

Our monthly litter picks have attracted more volunteers over recent months and it's great to see so many people wanting to help keep our village clean and tidy.

We meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Community Centre at 10am and

we split into groups so we can cover as much of the village as possible. Equipment such as litter pickers, gloves and bin bags are provided.



## Christmas 2023

The Parish Council held its annual Christmas carol singing event on Friday 8 December, accompanied by members of the guitar group, 'Three Guitars', featuring our very own Cllrs' John McAndrew and Keith Ashton. Refreshments were served in the community centre afterwards.

## Parish Council Grant Scheme

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 make a grant of:

- £500 to Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility to purchase two manual wheelchairs.
- £99 to sponsor one place for a young person from the village to attend the Real Madrid CF Foundation Football Clinic on 26 July 2024.



## No Increase to Parish Precept for the Fifth Year Running

The Parish Council at its meeting on 3 January 2024 agreed to set a Precept for 2024/25 of £24,266. This means that the amount paid by residents will not have increased for the last five years and for a Band D property the precept will remain at £22 per year.

Councillor Gillian Sharples  
Chair of the Parish Council



# Buckshaw Primary School

When we moved to Astley Village in 1980 we had to choose a school for our son Keir who was ready to enter full time education the following year. After visiting several schools in the area, we decided on Buckshaw Primary. The school had only opened the previous year but the staff showed considerable experience and concern that each pupil should be both happy and hard working. The Headteacher at that time was Mrs Pat Talbot. Our two daughters later joined the school.

Ofsted recently noted that,

*Pupils show positive attitudes towards their learning. They behave well in lessons and during social times. As a result, the school is calm and orderly. Learning is rarely disrupted.*

Last year, the Governors appointed a new Headteacher, Sarah Price and a new Deputy Head, Laura Heyes. They have proved to be knowledgeable, dynamic leaders and are excellent role model for staff and pupils. Their extremely high expectations are reflected in the good quality of provision, the dedication of staff and the exemplary attitudes of pupils to their learning. Parents have also commented on how approachable they both are and always listen carefully to any concerns.

*Governors are committed to the school and its pupils. They understand the school's strengths and have acted quickly to bring about improvements. Staff feel supported and involved in the changes that leaders are putting in place. They appreciate the professional support and training they receive.*

I've asked the Headteacher to write a short summary of the current situation at Buckshaw Primary



Our priorities at Buckshaw are excellent pastoral care which nurtures the personal development of each individual child, coupled with the drive to provide high quality teaching and learning across a curriculum which is relevant and exciting to our children. We pride ourselves in being an inclusive and diverse school family.

In the last two years, the school's curriculum has been redesigned and the professional development of all staff has been a high priority. Within our curriculum, we aim to add a wide range of opportunities to broaden our children's experiences and enable them to apply their learning. We also endeavour to help the children

make memories. During the past school year, this has included a whole school trip to see a pantomime at Christmas, author visits, a visit from Chorley MP and Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle, visits from the fire service, taking part in the Young Voices concert at Manchester Arena, performing with thousands of other children, We benefit from wonderful school grounds which include a large playing field and areas such as our wildlife garden which are developed as part of our Forest School provision. Indoors, we have a great community space from which we operate wrap around care for children starting at 7.50am and running until 6.00pm each day.

Our school journey begins in our nursery, where we welcome children from 2 years of age with both funded and paid sessions available. We have a wonderful team of very experienced staff who provide an excellent standard of care, a fabulous learning environment and wide range of opportunities to explore and learn.

Encouraging our children to make a positive contribution to the local community is of great importance to us. So far this year that has included a sponsored colour dash in aid of Derian House which raised over £2000, a family coffee morning for McMillan, huge collections for the local foodbank run by Living Waters and a visit by a group of children to the local retirement village, entertaining residents with carols at their Christmas party.

If you would like to find out more about our school, our website can be found at [www.buckshaw.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.buckshaw.lancs.sch.uk) or please contact our school office on 01257 418862. I will be delighted to give you a personal tour of school so you can see us in action.

Mrs Sarah Price, Headteacher  
Councillor John McAndrew, School Governor.

### 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.

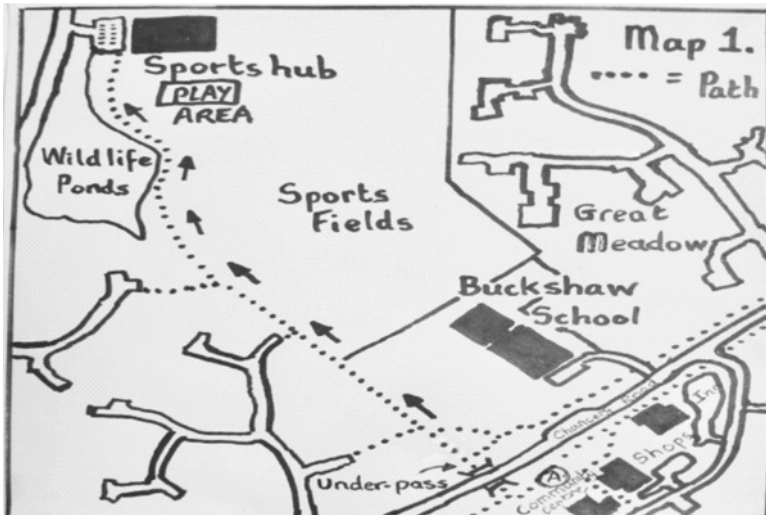
<b>Full Page Adverts</b>	Size: A5, artwork produced, £70 per issue.
<b>Half Page Adverts</b>	Size: half A5, artwork produced, £45 per issue.
<b>Quarter Page Adverts</b>	Size: quarter A5, artwork produced, £25 per issue

# Village Walk

There are many walks to be enjoyed throughout Astley Village, many of which are approximately just 1 mile. The following takes in several sites and finishes in Astley Park.

Start at Hall Gate car park (What3words: focus.forget.error) and walk towards the village centre, with the community centre on your left. Turn left and walk until you reach the new fingerpost signs. Turn right to walk down the hill and underneath Chancery Road. Continue following the path, until it forks – if you turn to the right, this leads to the new West Way Sports Hub and the Nature Reserve. You can walk around the nature reserve, but be aware that the path is uneven in places.

Alternatively, you can turn left and join the top of Wymundsley. Continue walking along Wymundsley down to Chancery Road. Take care crossing the road and turn right and follow the path onto The Farthings. You will see some beautiful Spring daffodils on the corner. Take the next left and follow the path round to the left and cross the bridge. Keep walking and you will reach one of the cul-de-sacs of Long Copse. Follow the path down towards a grassed area. Here, take the path to the right and you will continue onto Merefield. Cross over and bear slightly right. You will find the path that leads directly into Astley Park. Turn left and walk up the hill past the bowling greens and you will see Astley Hall directly in front of you. Once you have reached Astley Hall, you can treat yourself to a cup of tea or coffee at Café Ambio. (What3words: indoor.after.images).



Councillor Gillian Sharples



# Christmas 2023

Looking back to Christmas 2023 it seems an age ago, and Christmas 2024 seems even further away in the future, but both deserve a little time of reflection.

Christmas 2023 saw the Astley Village Annual Carol Singing Event held on 8 December. It was attended by some 40 people, who all joined in a mixture of Carols and Christmas songs including Silent Night, Jingle Bells, and O Little Town of Bethlehem.



The accompanying guitar music was provided by a group of Councillors; Keith Ashton, Alistair Morwood, Mike Mason, and John McAndrews, all of whom belong to an " Old " guitar group called 20 Guitars. They finished with the song "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" after which we all went inside the Community Centre for a warming drink and a mince pie.



The Parish Christmas Tree had been switched on earlier, and its lights brought that Christmas feel to area near the shops, and Community Centre. This hopefully helped to rise the Village's spirits at that time of year.

We will soon be planning the event for Christmas 2024, so if you have any thoughts or suggestions on what went well, or not so well please let us know via the Parish Council Web Site.

Lastly mark in your diary Friday 6 December 2024 at 6:30pm "Astley Village Christmas Event 2024", and we hope to see you all there.

Councillor Ian Thomas



## 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)

# Litter Pick: Anniversary Report

Astley Village Parish Council agreed that we should organise a monthly litter pick at our November 2022 meeting and the necessary equipment was ordered.

The first litter pick was organised for the first Saturday in January 2023 and then the first Saturday of each following month has become the regular pattern.

We have had a mixed response from volunteers - sometimes just a few Parish Councillors accompanied by a couple of volunteers and on one sunny Saturday we had turnout of 14 volunteers. Grandparents have brought small children (we have litter pickers available for both children and adults) a great way of educating children the lifelong skill of using the bins placed around the village.

On most occasions we fill more than two or three bin bags and sometimes four or more !!! **Just imagine if all the rubbish we have collected over the year was put into one horrifyingly large pile. What an eyesore and a reflection on the way in which some of the population treat our village.**

The main culprits are those who throw away sweet bags followed by the individual sweet wrappers. Discarded crisp packets, drink cartons, cans and coffee cups are regularly dropped and in many cases within a few yards of a litter bin!! Unfortunately, the increase in vaping has led to even more items of litter from plastic outer wrappings to the hard plastic containers and the vape innards with batteries and wires which can be a fire hazard in the bins.

It isn't just the younger members of the population either. There are the car drivers who think it is acceptable to discard all the different elements of a fast-food meal along the kerbside stretching from the beginning of the village at West Way and all the way up Chancery Road. There are also the individuals who throw beer and lager cans onto the grass verge as they pass through the village.

We have collected a wide range of 'strange' discarded items - full packs of tonic water cans, a flatpack child's toy pram, various kitchen appliances including a toaster, iron and kettle and plastic washing up bowls, a washing basket and garden trug. Rather heavier was the base and stand of an office swivel chair.

We do try to recycle cans and glass bottles which wine and spirit drinkers discard regularly in the bushes near the underpass and behind the village centre.

However, the bin bags can become too heavy to carry. The nearest recycling bin is by the cannons near Cafe Ambio. We have made representations to Chorley Borough Council to have another dual bin installed for the village centre.

Chorley Borough Council have been able to provide four new general waste bins - two larger bins by the West Way play area and the others by the Deerfold bus stop and the corner of the Hallgate car park near Oliver House school. Astley Village must be one of the best places for the provision of litter bins. There are over 21 bins along Chancery Road and on side pathways in the village. All these bins are well used, so many residents and visitors are doing their bit to keep Astley Village a clean and pleasant environment.

Independently, residents continue to litter pick on a regular basis to try to improve the appearance of our village. More residents volunteering for the monthly litter pick (equipment provided) would help us to achieve even more.

**We would be very pleased to see you for one hour at ten o'clock on the first Saturday of each month!!**

**Also, one more plea: hedgehogs cross Chancery Road around dusk from 9pm onwards - please drive a little more slowly to try and protect these endangered creatures. Thank you !**

Councillor Keith Ashton

### COUNCILLOR CASUAL VACANCY



Astley Village Parish Council have two 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.

## Access Paths to West Way Sports Hub

The Parish Council has increased its potential funding for this project. Chorley Borough Council will lead on this and are seeking outside funding for this project. We want to see a perimeter path around the new pitches area with links to existing access paths from Great Meadow. At present access is over land that can get quite wet and muddy in winter months. The Parish Council want to see this access improved and a path installed from Great Meadow to the children's' play area.

## Planting for the Garden of Reflection

The improvements made last year to the “village green” are to be completed with extra planting around the notice board and stone planter.



## Chancery Road Underpass

The Parish Council has allocated funds to be used to improve the underpass and the approaches to it. This can only be done in partnership with Chorley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council Highways Department. We hope that there will be developments on this project later this year.

## Wildflower seeding and wildlife corridors

The Parish Council continues to support this project, the fruits of which can be seen at the time of writing this article in late April, wild primrose and cowslips in the grass verges.



## Relocated and Additional Benches

The two benches on the village green were replaced by three new ones last year. The old, but still functional, ones have been placed on the path from the underpass to the West Way Sports Hub.

We 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.

At the last Parish Council Meeting on 6 March it was agreed to commission two "Happy to chat" signs to be fixed to a bench at the Astley Village Garden of Reflection and outside the shops.



## Interpretation Boards at the West Way Nature Reserve

This has been on hold as there have been several instances of vandalism reported around the ponds. The Parish Council are reluctant to install boards if they end up in a pond as happened to the posts illustrated below!



We still hope to get some vandal proof interpretation boards installed soon.

Councillor Chris Sheldon

# Chorley Flower Show 2024



Astley Village Parish Council will have a stall at Chorley Flower Show for the third year running. As always, we will be placed with the other voluntary organisations tents. This year we will be at the Flower Show on the Friday 26 and Saturday 27 July 2024. Come along and talk to us about our village!

## Skip Day - Clean Up Day

A skip will be sited again at Hallgate Car Park, (Near Astley Park) on Saturday 29 June 2024 9.00am – 12.00 noon.

Put forward by the Local Councillors and supported by Places for People, this community clean-up will focus on helping residents dispose of unwanted household items to help keep your local area clean and safe. All trade waste and any hazardous materials such as paint tins containing paint and rubber tyres cannot be disposed of in the skip. Vulnerable residents who may struggle to get items to the skip, are advised to contact Chorley Borough Council to discuss possible options of how we can support you, as we may be able to help in some circumstances.

### 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)

## 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 Eddie Murdoch  
Deerfold, Astley Village  
Tel: 07305169601  
Email: [cllr.edward.murdoch@avpc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.edward.murdoch@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  
11 Lichen Close, Chorley  
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 3 July 2024.  
Wednesday 4 September 2024  
Wednesday 6 November 2024  
Wednesday 8 January 2025  
Wednesday 5 March 2025  
(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/>

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

or <https://www.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>