

Hartford Parish Plan

Action Plan

Issues, Actions, Stakeholders, Timescales

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Second edition published November 2005

Third Edition published June 2007

This Fourth Edition published November 2008

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Abbreviations used in this document

AMEC	The Amalgamation of Mechanical and Electrical Contractors
CAT	Community Action Team
CCC	Cheshire County Council
CWAC	Cheshire West and Chester Council
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
DIY	'Do It Yourself' store
HCS	Hartford Civic Society
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HPC	Hartford Parish Council
MCRUA	Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association
CWAC	Cheshire West and Chester Council

MP	Member of Parliament
NHS	National Health Service
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
PC	Parish Council
PCT	Primary Care Trust
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
VDS	Village Design Statement
VRBC	Vale Royal Borough Council
WBT	Warrington Borough Transport
WCML	West Coast Main Line

Timescales: Short term is within two years, medium term within five years and long term within ten years.

1 Environment Action Plan

Issues	Actions	Stakeholders	Timescale
Future trends in housing development that would affect the character of the village.	<p>Exert strong local control of planning developments to preserve the community and recreational character of the village. Refer to the VDS and monitor progress.</p> <p>VDS should be robustly employed in informing planning decisions and Parish Council responses to applications</p>	HPC VRBC CCC HCS Developers	Ongoing
The Village Design Statement was adopted in January 2005.			
Any future land being developed which would result in the merging of Hartford with adjoining parishes.	Work with partners to preserve the open countryside surrounding the village.	HPC VRBC CCC HCS CWAC	Ongoing Ongoing
The possible loss of green spaces within the village.	Maintain and enhance the existing open green areas (e.g. green spaces, woodlands, parks, sports fields) throughout Hartford. Arrange an audit of open spaces.	HPC VRBC CCC Marshall's Arm Nature Reserve Woodland Trust Mersey Forest CWAC	Ongoing Ongoing
<p>Parker Avenue play area, football field drainage are subjects of Rural Grant bids.</p> <p>Audit of open spaces and land owned by or leased to HPC to be undertaken.</p> <p>Installation of equipment at Parker Avenue has been undertaken and the play area is due to open shortly. Some replacement of equipment at Bradburns Lane is to take place shortly.</p> <p>Parker Avenue play area has been completed. Equipment has been replaced at Grange Park.</p>			
Residents value the green in our village and wish to protect mature trees and ensure a programme of care and replacement.	<p>Protect mature trees in the village (e.g. using TPOs and exploring viability of a tree warden to conduct an audit).</p> <p>Ongoing liaison with owners or managers of wooded areas (including Royalty Wood, Marshall's Arm).</p> <p>Ensure that trees felled, including those that fall naturally or as a result of disease, are replaced.</p>	HPC VRBC CCC Conservation organisations CWAC	Ongoing Ongoing
<p>Tree group instituted.</p> <p>Hartford now has three tree wardens linked to Cheshire Landscape Trust.</p>			

Major pruning works have taken place on the trees around the Village Hall and further works are planned for the future on the Ann Todd garden on Bradburns Lane.

Lack of knowledge of residents in the village of existing footpaths.	Promote knowledge of the location of footpaths in the village, including clear signage.	HPC CCC Footpaths Association Ramblers Association Marshall's Arm Local Nature Reserve	Short term
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Bid for rights of way made to CCC strategy plan. The footpath from Chester Road to the end of The Grange was established as a right of way during 2006. Residents' views about establishing a right of way from the car park at Hartford Manor Primary School to Mid Cheshire College (blocked by locked gates erected by Hartford High School in 2007) were sought in 2007 and the matter subsequently left in the hands of the school.

HPC has contributed to work undertaken as part of CCC strategy plan to establish recreational walking routes within the village.

HCS has produced a leaflet about walks on footpaths in and around the village, which is downloadable from its website.

The sustainability of local conservation areas.	Promote and support the local nature reserve conservation areas.	HPC CCC VRBC Marshall's Arm Local Nature Reserve	Short term
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Marshall's Arm has won Green Flag in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

Concern of residents regarding future methods of dealing with an increasing amount of rubbish generated by households in Hartford.	Support schemes designed to increase waste recycling providing they are environmentally and socially acceptable. Monitor recently introduced kerbside recycling scheme in Hartford.	HPC VRBC CWAC	Short term
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Vale Royal Borough Council reports suggest that 40% of rubbish generated by households is now recycled. Support pilot of plastics recycling
Plastics recycling was introduced to Hartford during 2006.

Refuse collection to be reviewed when VRBC is replaced by CWAC in 2009. At present Chester residents have a weekly collection, unlike those in other parts of Cheshire.

No changes are planned for collections in the 2010-2011 financial year.

The appearance of the village is often spoilt by the amount of litter on the streets and green areas	Provide more litter bins, and explore effective mechanisms for imposing fines on those committing offences. Promote litter picks organised by HPC and volunteers	HPC VRBC CCC LEA Cheshire Constabulary	Ongoing
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Litter pick undertaken in April 2006. There has been some improvement in this respect.

HCS to undertake litter picks.

Litter picks undertaken by members of the Parish Council and the Civic Society in 2009

<p>The amount of dog fouling that affects some parts of the village including the green field, Grange Park and the cricket field.</p>	<p>Provide more dog waste bins, and explore effective mechanisms for imposing fines on those committing offences.</p>	<p>HPC VRBC Cheshire Constabulary Marshall's Arm Local Nature Reserve CWAC</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>Two dog bins at Marshalls Arm, with proposal for a third at Stones Manor Lane entrance. There has been some improvement in this respect, although ongoing and regular publicity has appeared to be necessary. VRBC now opposed to the provision of dedicated dog waste bins. There has been a particular problem at Bradburns Lane, with dog walkers allowing animals to foul the play area. Dog waste bin has been installed at the entrance to Marshalls Arm. 2 new bird-proof waste bins have been installed on Grange Park, these bins can also be used for dog waste</p>			
<p>Despite residents' pride in its upkeep, Hartford has not been entered into the CCC Community Pride Competition for several years.</p>	<p>Recruit volunteer(s) to promote entry into CCC Best Kept Village Competition.</p>	<p>HPC CCC</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>Not entered in 2005. May be undertaken in 2006 Hartford News won the 'best newsletter' element of this in 2007. Other aspects of the competition were not entered in 2006, 2007 or 2008. May be undertaken in 2009. No plans to undertake in 2010.</p>			

2 Community Safety Action Plan

Issues	Actions	Stakeholders	Timescale
The threat of intimidating groups in certain areas of the village resulting in anti social behaviour.	Encourage residents to report all criminal activities and incidents.	Cheshire Constabulary Crime Prevention Unit HPC Vale Royal Community Safety Partnership CCC youth service	Short term
Concerns regarding the increase in crimes within the village and the wish to identify problems and seek ways of solving the rising crime rate.	Liaise with police and other agencies concerning prevention of crime and anti social behaviour.	Cheshire Constabulary Crime Prevention Unit HPC Joint partners	Short term
Due to the lack of a “local policeman” there is a desire to investigate other initiatives to ensure that Hartford is a safe and pleasant place to live.	Investigate the appointment of a Community Safety Officer being assigned to the village.	HPC VRBC Cheshire Constabulary Other parish councils	Short term
<p>PCSO is now in post: messaging service, surgeries, surveys, etc.</p> <p>PCSO has made progress in dealing with elements of antisocial behaviour and the detection of criminal activities in Hartford</p> <p>Cheshire Constabulary are participating in a new, national police message service so that residents can receive regular updates</p> <p>In 2008 Cheshire Police were unable to fulfil their earlier obligation to provide a PCSO and are refunding the HPC contribution on a monthly basis. It is anticipated that this will be rectified soon by the recruitment of appropriate staff.</p> <p>PCSO Andy Taylor was appointed in 2009 and has made a significant impact on the Village. In 2010 the Police Authority revised the Service Level Agreement and the contribution from the Parish Council was increased to £11,800 per annum.</p>			
Hartford has not had a Homewatch Scheme for several years.	Regenerate the Homewatch Scheme and publicise the benefits of having the scheme in the village.	Cheshire Constabulary Homewatch Co-ordinator Volunteers HPC	Short term
<p>Homewatch has been launched. Village co-ordinator, and some local area co-ordinators were appointed in 2006. Some areas still require the appointment of co-ordinators.</p> <p>Village co-ordinator makes a regular contribution to Hartford News to publicise developments to residents.</p> <p>D Barr continues to spearhead the group and has made progress recruiting local volunteers</p>			

3 Business Action Plan

Issues	Actions	Stakeholders	Timescale
There is a desire to promote interaction between the community and local businesses.	Promote liaison between business and organisations in Hartford, identifying ways in which businesses can support local organisations	Businesses Local organisations HPC	Short term
Residents of Hartford, at the present time, have no way of knowing what shops, services and business are available in the area.	Promote local knowledge of shops, services and businesses available in Hartford. Use website and produce local directory Need to develop a clear policy about content, etc.	Businesses HPC Hartford News HPC website	Ongoing
<p>Website is now running. Includes list of shops, facilities, and their telephone numbers. In April 2007 it was reported that the website was receiving 20,000 hits per month, including several hundred 'new' hits. Concern remains that there are shop units in the village that are unoccupied, including some that have remained so for several years.</p> <p>Website updated. Currently 2 empty shops in Hartford however the Village now has a butcher and a thriving wine bar. Joint activities have been arranged by the local community and businesses to include a Christmas Victorian Fayre and a further event is planned for Summer 2010.</p>			
Difficulty for residents and passers by to park in Hartford when wishing to visit the shops.	Maintain or enhance, as appropriate, parking facilities near to shopping areas in Hartford	VRBC HPC CCC Shop owners Cheshire Constabulary	Medium term
<p>PCSO has started issuing advisory notices to some car owners about parking, prior to parking tickets for repeat 'offenders'. Concern remains about parking issues, particularly where cars are being parked on narrow pavements. A proposal to introduce 'short stay' parking restrictions on Chester Road prompted lengthy discussions between shopkeepers, residents and HPC: it was not pursued.</p> <p>There are new traffic management proposals for this area.</p> <p>Traffic calming measures have taken place outside the shops on Hartford Road which pedestrian refuges and marked parking spaces</p>			

4 Population Action Plan

Issues	Actions	Stakeholders	Timescale
Residents value the green spaces to keep Hartford as a village.	Restrict further residential development in Hartford, especially developments which cause in-filling of green spaces.	HPC HCS VRBC CCC Potential developers The Grange School	Short term
The population has doubled in the last 40 years and residents believe that the infrastructure of the village was not capable of encompassing any more residential dwellings.	Limit any new house building to sites which have previously been developed and/or built on.	HPC HCS VRBC CCC Potential developers	Short term
Some recent development has conflicted with existing properties.	Ensure that the design of new buildings or extensions is in sympathy with surrounding properties.	HPC HCS VRBC CCC Potential developers	Short term
<p>Grange Farm protected, but Sandiway Cottage site to be developed. Plans now submitted for Mid Cheshire College car park site, including four storey blocks of flats. VDS should be robustly employed in informing planning decisions and Parish Council responses to applications</p> <p>Sandiway Cottage and Mid Cheshire College car park sites have both been developed. The proposal for four storey blocks of flats was withdrawn, and three storey blocks have now been erected. A further site in the village has been identified for potential development. HPC and HCS are discussing improvements to the centre of the village. Work will commence in due course. The Grange School has entered into discussions with HPC about enhancements to the village as part of the school's community initiative.</p> <p>HCS have erected a planter at the junction of School Lane and The Green. Large tubs have been provided outside the Chester Road shops. The design, location and provision of a mosaic are being discussed between The Grange School and HPC.</p> <p>Mosaic planned in conjunction with The Grange School and The Manor School, HCS once again provided plants.</p>			
Unauthorised and out of character additions and alterations to properties within the conservation area.	Rigorously protect the character of the conservation area, and enhance wherever possible.	HPC HCS VRBC English Heritage Householders	Short term Ongoing
<p>Some recent planning decisions have not enhanced these objectives. A number of planning applications received have been rejected due to their inconsistency with local planning objectives or their detrimental impact on the surrounding area. Some unauthorised development has taken place.</p> <p>New planning regulations were introduced by central government in October 2008.</p> <p>No developments have taken place which contravene planning regulation and the Council has a commitment to the Village Design Statement</p>			

<p>There are still some very old and charming buildings in Hartford. These houses are part of history and add to the character of the village and deserve to be preserved.</p>	<p>Preserve traditional buildings that are integral to the character of the village.</p>	<p>HPC HCS VRBC English Heritage Historical Society</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>See VDS.</p>			
<p>Lack of basic community facilities for a village the size of Hartford.</p>	<p>Investigate the provision of basic community facilities for residents (e.g. medical centre, library, community centre).</p>	<p>HPC VRBC CCC PCT Mid Cheshire College The Grange School</p>	<p>Medium term</p>

5 Facilities & Amenities Action Plan

Issues	Actions	Stakeholders	Timescale
There is no GP or medical centre in the village.	Investigate availability of room(s) within the village, for a weekly health care surgery.	HPC PCT	Medium term
Review impact of new surgery in Firdale Park.			
Although there is a mobile library that visits Hartford there is no permanent facility in the village.	Revisit options for establishing a library within the village (consider use of existing building with available rooms). Investigate options within Mid Cheshire College or enhanced facilities at Village Hall	HPC CCC	Long term
No prospect of CCC library. Limited library facilities are available at Mid Cheshire College. Mobile library continues			
Concern regarding facilities for young people who live in Hartford.	Consult with young people to establish their current requirements and needs in Hartford.	HPC Youth organisations Schools Churches CCC Youth Services Volunteers Young people	Medium term
Despite efforts there have not been enough volunteers forthcoming interested in organising a youth club. PCSO has held evenings for young people during 2007 and 2008 to seek opinions and encourage support from agencies and residents. In October 2008 a new member of HPC was recruited who has a particular interest in providing sporting and other activities for young people. Guttering replaced on pavilion, ongoing discussions regarding lease for Hartford Boys Football Club. The tennis club provides coaching and facilities for young people and the cricket club is actively involved in providing sporting facilities including coaching sessions for juniors.			
The condition and ability of the Village Hall to cater for the social needs of the village.	Investigate grant funding to extend and up-grade the village hall and the parking needed to enable the village hall committee to offer a wider range of amenities to the residents of Hartford	HPC Village Hall Management Committee HPC Outside funding	Long term Medium term
Rural Grant bid for extension to Village Hall. Limited funding was secured for the Village Hall extension but plans have been scaled back considerably. Improvements and modifications to be made. Funds have now been raised to extend the village hall to include an additional meeting room and remodelling of the interior. Planning application submitted to Cheshire West and Chester April 2010			

6 Sport & Leisure Action Plan

Issues	Actions	Stakeholders	Timescale
Poor drainage on the football green field that causes flooding in wet weather.	Investigate means of addressing the water logging problem of the football field.	HPC Hartford Football Club Outside funding	Long term
<p>Rural Grant bid for work to be undertaken providing improved drainage on football field. Explore options for the removal of water. Football Club now has a formal lease.</p> <p>Work, including exploratory drilling, was undertaken to determine how the drainage issue should be addressed but it proved to be impracticable.</p>			
The wish to improve play areas within the village.	Consideration to be given to redesigning the play area at Parker Avenue with more imaginative and varied facilities	HPC Outside funding	Medium term
<p>Rural Grant bid for enhanced facilities at Parker Avenue play area. Residents' survey undertaken and results analysed/collated.</p> <p>Installation of equipment has been undertaken and the play area is due to open shortly.</p> <p>Both parks have been substantially improved to provide facilities for all age groups</p>			

7 Transport & Traffic Action Plan

Issues	Actions	Stakeholders	Timescale
The concerns regarding Hartford Station and the progressive loss in the number of trains that now service the station.	Continue to lobby MPs to raise the issue of the poor train service from Hartford station.	London Midland Trains Virgin Trains MCRUA MPs	Ongoing
<p>MCRUA continues to lobby Mike Hall MP, London Midland Trains, Northern Trains, Virgin Trains. Service provision from Hartford has improved, as has its reliability following the introduction of new 'Desiro' electric trains Old dilapidated wooden railings have been replaced with an acceptable metal replacement; grass and foliage over paths has been strimmed. Central Trains franchise ended in 2007. The service between Liverpool and Birmingham is now operated by London Midland Trains.</p>			
Residents are unfamiliar with the number and frequency of buses that run through the village.	Raise awareness and use of available bus services.	Arriva CCC Dial-a-Ride Private operators Hartford News HPC website	Short term
<p>Timetables now posted on www.hartfordparishcouncil.org.uk. Hartford News has carried 'Dial a Ride' article GHA Coaches now operates the 82 service from Northwich to Chester. The WBT service 44 to Warrington ceased in 2006</p>			
Residents in parts of the village are unhappy about the condition of roads and/or pavements.	Raise standards of infrastructure maintenance.	VRBC CCC	Short term
Some pavements in the village do not provide safe access, particularly for members of the community who experience mobility problems. Some major roads in Hartford do not have adequate pavements.	Review provision and condition of pavements to ensure safe access to all members of the community, including people with disabilities	VRBC CCC	Short term
<p>CCC provided with details of poor pavements in 2004. Some roads and pavements have been given basic resurfacing. New audit should be undertaken to review progress Continue to monitor, some resurfacing taken place. Major improvements have been made to the grass verges around the village</p>			
Although most parts of the village have a 30 mph restriction in force many vehicles ignore these restrictions.	Investigate the options for enforcing speed limits throughout the village. Explore resources needed to enhance signage and awareness of speed limits in the village	CCC Cheshire Constabulary HPC	Ongoing
<p>Some signage posted on School Lane and Chester Road. Runcorn Road, to Weaverham, is now subject to a 40mph restriction A 'speed truck' (portable speed warning) has been deployed in the village. Community initiative, including the training of residents in the use of a portable speed gun, is progressing. Speedwatch group is in place and is liaising with Cheshire Police about use of SID's, enforcement, etc. Speedwatch now active and have been monitoring speed various parts of village</p>			

Parking on yellow lines and on pavements cause problems, especially for the emergency services.	Investigate the options for enforcing parking restrictions throughout the village.	HPC VRBC CCC Cheshire Constabulary	Medium term
It is quite often difficult to park when visiting the shops in Hartford.	Review options for improving and managing parking in the village, with consideration for the needs of people with disabilities.	HPC VRBC CCC Shop owners	Medium term
<p>PCSO has started issuing advisory notices to some car owners about parking, prior to parking tickets for repeat 'offenders'. Concern remains about parking issues, particularly where cars are being parked on narrow pavements. Active enforcement, new line painting Fullerton and Booth Road. CWAC surveying parking issues on Chester Road outside St John's Church</p>			
Traffic congestion at the beginning and the end of the school day is very heavy indeed. For an array of reasons parents drive their children to school rather than let them walk.	Investigate and progress realistic options for safer walking and cycling to schools. Promote cycling through training courses.	HPC Schools CCC "Safer Routes to School", Sustrans Groundwork Trust VRBC	Short term
Because of the enormous number of pupils and students attending schools in the village significant traffic congestion is generated from school traffic.	Examine progress made by schools in developing transport plans, and determine how they can best be made effective. Investigate use of PCSO to liaise with schools about car transport and parking.	CCC VRBC Schools Cheshire Constabulary HPC	Short term
<p>CCC 'Safer Routes to Schools' initiative is ongoing. Consideration of 'Safer Routes to Schools' was a significant factor in the planning of the turning circle built at Hartford Manor Primary School. PCSO actively monitoring</p>			
Residents are concerned about levels of traffic congestion in parts of the village.	Continue the biannual traffic survey to monitor road traffic in Hartford.	HPC	Ongoing
<p>Traffic survey due to be undertaken September 2006. September 2006 traffic survey was not undertaken due to the presence of substantial roadworks in the village. Was undertaken in September 2007. Pupils at The Grange School helped with its execution. Undertaken 2008. Improvement in junction and traffic flow</p>			
The amount of HGV vehicles that travel through the village especially from the local depot. Infringements of agreements are a grave cause for concern.	Write to the transport depot to remind them of their obligations. Report future instances of weight restriction infringements to the police, copying to the traffic commissioner	Transport depot Cheshire Constabulary Traffic Commissioner HPC	Short term
<p>Recently HPC expressed concern that licence has been granted for the operation of more vehicles from the site.</p>			

Road modifications are to be made to Burrows Hill, Bradburns Lane, etc, in connection with the development of Winnington Urban Village.
No further information available
