



POYNTON UPDATE AND NEWS: March 4th 2016

Poynton and the Cheshire East Local Plan

As set out in their draft Local Plan, Cheshire East Council wants Poynton (and many other towns and villages) to undergo major new development up to 2030 and beyond. In Poynton, Cheshire East now calls for building 650 new houses, many of which will be in the Green Belt. There will also be 10 hectares of new employment sites.

As Poynton currently has about 6,200 houses and flats, Cheshire East is planning a 10.5 per cent increase. They claim not to have calculated the resulting changes in the population of the village.

Cheshire East proposes building in five areas of the Green Belt:

- Land off Hazelbadge Road: Cheshire East proposes building 150 houses on land near Lower Park School.
- Land off Dickens Lane: This site is near Hunts Vets, opposite the playing fields - Cheshire East want another 150 houses on this site.
- Land off Chester Road: A further 150 houses on land west of the Birds Estate, close to the border with Adlington.
- Land by Adlington Industrial Estate: 10 hectares of land, from several small sites, to build offices or factories. This site is actually in northern Adlington.
- Former Woodford Aerodrome: Cheshire East want to take the former runway and nearby land out of the Green Belt and “safeguard” it for future development. It could take a further 540 houses at that time, but would not be built on until after 2030.

Cheshire East suggest that more houses would be built on smaller sites, possibly including the Sports Club, to give a total of 650 new houses by 2030.

Poynton Town Council has a number of serious concerns about Cheshire East’s revised Local Plan. Our concerns include:

Local Traffic: The Local Plan ignores the impact of extra traffic on Hazelbadge Road, Dickens Lane or Chester Road. All these roads are already badly congested and dangerous for pedestrians.

Traffic on Major Roads: Cheshire East claim more houses are needed for local economic growth, but it is inevitable that many people moving into Poynton will work in Stockport or Manchester. Anyone who commutes up the A6 or A34 (Kingsway) will know that these roads are already full. How could they possibly take the extra traffic generated by thousands of new houses in Poynton, Woodford, Wilmslow and Macclesfield? Greater Manchester has the worst traffic jams outside London.

Pollution: There is increasing evidence that more traffic will increase air pollution.

Infrastructure: The revised Local Plan gives little information about the extra infrastructure required as a result of large scale development. This will lead to more traffic on local roads and car parks, and increased flows in sewers and water courses. The Local Plan does not say how extra pressure on our schools, medical services and environment will be dealt with.

No new parks or public recreation areas are mentioned.

Brownfield Land: Government policy is that previously developed “brownfield” land should always be used in preference to the Green Belt. However, Cheshire East has ignored the numerous empty factories and units on Poynton Industrial Estate. We believe that these sites should be redeveloped before any Green Belt land is built on.

The Town Council accepts that some development is necessary, and supports the target in the original draft Local Plan of 200 houses and 3 hectares of employment sites. Wherever possible, new building should use previously developed land. The impact on infrastructure, increased traffic and local services must be addressed before any development is allowed.

Cheshire East is holding a public consultation from 4th March to 19th April. Please respond and let Cheshire East know YOUR views on the Local Plan. At no point in this process have Cheshire East tried to negotiate with the Town Council and local councillors. Over recent months, landowners and developers have been giving their views to Cheshire East and the Planning Inspector.

Now it is YOUR turn.

How to Comment on the draft Local Plan

The Town Council asked Cheshire East to hold a public exhibition on their plans for Poynton, but they refused to do so, stating that they were focussing on online comments. Poynton Town Council therefore decided to organise our own exhibition, so local residents can be properly informed about possible major changes to the village and be able to express their views.

The exhibition is in Poynton Civic Hall, and is open every day except Sundays and Bank Holidays. It will continue until the public consultation ends on 19th April 2016.

All the Local Plan documents are available on the Cheshire East website:

http://cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/cheshire_east_local_plan.aspx

Cheshire East’s Press Release:

http://cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/media_hub/media_releases/revised-local-plan-strategy-consultation-begins.aspx

Online Comments

You can view the Local Plan Strategy - Proposed Changes and submit comments online using the Local Plan Consultation Portal:

<http://cheshireeast-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/lpspcv>

Written Comments

A copy of the draft Local Plan is also available in Poynton Library, Macclesfield Town Hall and the Cheshire East HQ at Westfields in Sandbach. Paper reply forms will be available at Poynton Civic Hall and in the Library.

For further information, please contact Cheshire East:

Email: localplan@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Telephone: 01270 685893.

Address: Spatial Planning Team, Westfields, C/O Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ.

Poynton Town Council precept for 2016/17

The precept is collected by Cheshire East Council as part of the council tax and is the amount of money the Town Council charges residents annually to fund the range of services that they would not otherwise receive and which are not provided by Cheshire East Council. These include two play areas, the majority of the Inclines, CCTV monitoring, graffiti removal, the Coppice Road allotments and part funding of 5 PCSOs. The Town Council also owns and maintains the Civic Hall, given its important role as a community hub and home to such organisations as the CAB, You and Yours, U3A AA, local bridge and badminton clubs as well as providing a regular venue for the weekly "Time Out" café and the NHS Blood Unit. A number of organisations and community events also benefit from funding by the Council, including Poynton in Bloom, Higher Poynton Summerfest and the Christmas Fest.

Town Councillors receive no form of salary, attendance or other allowances and give freely of their time.

The total precept figure for 2016/17 is £398,152. This is an additional £35,984 over the current year.

For a Band D home this is £69.13 for the year, or £1.32 per week. When compared to the present precept, residents are being asked for an extra 11p a week. The Town Council believes that this represents good value for money when measured against all the additional services and facilities in Poynton which are provided by the Town Council.

The Council reviewed and approved the draft 2016/17 budget and savings were made wherever possible. The main reasons for the increase in the precept are as follows:

- In line with other towns and parishes, our grant from Cheshire East Council has been reduced. This Precept Support Grant has been halved for 2016/17.
- An annual grant of £28,500 towards the provision of information services from Cheshire East Council ceased at the end of January 2016.
- Cheshire East Council no longer funds the running costs of the Air Quality Monitor (AQM) at the top of Clifford Road. Given the disruption likely to be caused by the A6MARR and Poynton Relief Road programmes, the Town Council considers it essential that emission levels be monitored. It is necessary to cover the cost of repairs and ongoing maintenance of the AQM.
- The Town Council currently part funds 5 PCSOs. Cheshire Constabulary has indicated that they are changing the way they work with PCSO funding partners. The Town Council is investigating other community policing options. An additional £20,000 of funding has been earmarked as a contingency for this situation.
- As a result of the refurbishing of the Library and the Civic Centre, the Council's Capital Reserves have been replenished by £20,000.

A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR)

There is an exhibition about the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR) on Wednesday 9th March from 2pm to 8pm in the Civic Hall. It will provide an update on the work. A letter has been posted to properties adjacent to the scheme.

www.semmms.info

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| March 2016 | | | |
| Sat 5 th March to 19 th April | 9am 9am | 5pm (7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays) 1pm on Saturdays | Local Plan Strategy - Proposed Changes Display and consultation forms available when the library and Civic Hall are open |
| Postponed due to snow Sat 5 th | 10am to 12noon | Civic Hall | Postponed Clean for the Queen – litter pick |
| Mon 7 th | 8pm | Civic Hall | Community, Order and Public Safety Committee |
| Weds 9 th | 2pm to 8pm | Civic Hall | A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road exhibition |
| Mon 14 th | 8pm | Civic Hall | Town Council |
| Sun 20 th | 9.30am | Civic Hall and around Poynton | Poynton 10km run Volunteer marshalls wanted and last few places: http://crazylegsevents.fikket.com/event/poynton-village-10km |
| Mon 21 st | 8pm | Civic Hall | Finance and General Purposes Committee |
| Thurs 25 th | 9am to 12 noon | Civic Hall | Poynton Business Jelly Café |

If you would like to subscribe to the PUN, please e-mail
reception@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk

(Printed copies also available on request from the Civic Hall)

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