

Great Sankey Parish Council Annual Report for 2008/2009

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008/09

The Parish Council has been involved in many initiatives to try make the Parish a pleasanter, safer place to live.

The Parish Council has done, and continues to do, a lot of work behind the scenes to represent the best interest of residents during the planning of Flood Alleviation measures in Great Sankey. They continue to liaise with United Utilities and the community to try to get the best solution for the largest number of people (although it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time).



The Mayor, Borough Council and Probation Service representatives at Hood Manor to check on the refurbishment

Parish Councillors campaigned long and hard to get the recent refurbishment of Hood Manor Centre done, then played a practical part by allowing the Probation Service, who did a lot of the work, free use of the community Centre as a base for the gardening operation.

The Parish Council has given financial support or practical help to a number of residents associations, either to help with projects to improve local parks and open spaces (Old Hall Community Group, Dorchester Road Residents Association) or support them in other issues (Chapelford and Briarswood).

The Parish Council has continued to support the work of Cheshire Police in trying to make the Parish a safer, pleasanter place to live. It gave funding for 4 Police Community Support Officers who are assigned exclusively to Great Sankey, and allowed free use of the Community Centres for Community Action meetings. The Parish Council also paid for CCTV coverage at the Hood Manor Centre.

The Parish Council has tried to help both young and old in the Parish

Senior citizens are sometimes forgotten when help is being given out, but the Parish Council made a point of remembering and gave gifts to the 3 Care facilities in the Parish to help brighten the lives of the residents. Two of the homes asked for garden furniture, but Green Park requested a Wii, which has been enthusiastically received by residents there.



Residents enjoy the Wii, watched by Cllr Hudson, Tracey Potter and Cllr Regan

The Parish Council tried various measures to engage young people in the Parish, one of which was a competition through the schools for youngsters to produce a picture showing “Sankey Tomorrow”. The Council also commissioned 3 very successful Summer Playschemes to run in its centres and has entered into a partnership with Warrington Wolves to gain Lottery funding to run extra Playschemes in the future.

The Parish Council has continued to manage your money efficiently, so it could continue to offer support during difficult economic times

The Parish Council is proud that it has not increased the rates it charges householders for 5 years, while continuing to maintain and improve its service. This year it did not raise its charges to groups who use the Community Centres, as it knows many local groups are struggling in the current economic climate. It dealt sympathetically with one or two groups who asked for temporary help with the rent through a difficult patch, while at the same time pursuing a vigorous policy against users that tried to default on paying their rent.

The Council is also proud to say it received a clean bill of health from the independent Auditors again this year.

The Parish Council faced and put right many problems

Yet again, in common with so many others, the Parish Council’s property has fallen victim to litter, graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behavior, particularly the recreation ground and play area at Tim Parry Community Centre. The Council has continued to put the damage right, and to report it to Police.

PLEASE HELP US CUT DOWN VANDAL DAMAGE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BY REPORTING INCIDENTS TO THE POLICE – remember it’s your money that has to be spent on repairs - phone 0845 458 000

The Parish Council is continuing to try to improve life in the Parish

The Parish Council has been made aware of a lack of allotments in the area, and has begun investigating what it can do about this. It is working closely with the Warrington West Neighbourhood Area Board to see what other benefits it can bring to the Parish.

The Parish Council made great efforts to engage with more of the community and improve its communications with Great Sankey residents

Parish Council involvement with the flood alleviation measures and the Titan Prison protest allowed it to have more contact with local residents and it has tried to build on this with public meetings and by using its website and noticeboards as a means of getting information about current local issues to the public.

The website, which can be found at www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey is full of information about the Parish and activities at the Community centres, and has many useful links to other sources of local information.

For those without internet access the Parish Council publishes information about what it does in this annual Newsletter and Report which is distributed to all households in the Parish. The Council also posts information on noticeboards around the Parish.

Parish Council Noticeboards can be found outside Whittle Hall Community Centre, in Tim Parry Recreation ground (Wroxham Road), and outside the Spar shop at Hood Manor.

Notices of Parish Council meetings are posted on them every month, plus details of any public meetings, so check them regularly.

All residents of Great Sankey are very welcome to attend Council meetings.

The Parish Council meets once a month, every month except August, and anyone from the Parish can attend. Time is set aside to have an update from the Police Community Support Officers and for members of the public to raise issues they want to bring to the attention of the Council. If you don't want to stay for the whole meeting you can check the agenda and just stay for the parts that interest you. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month (bar August) at Tim Parry Community Centre, Cromdale Way, starting at 7pm.

Dates for the next few meetings are 9th September 2009, 14th October 2009, 11th November 2009, 9th December 2009