

Audley Rural Parish Council

Play Areas for young people- Improvement Strategy 2015-2017

(19th FEBRUARY 2015)

"Sustainable communities meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, their children and other users, contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunity and choice. They achieve this in ways that make effective use of natural resources, enhance the environment, promote social cohesion and inclusion and strengthen economic prosperity." (Egan Review 2004 ODPM, p7).

1. Purpose of document

To review and rationalise the play areas in the Parish which meet the needs of the Parish's young people and are modernised to secure their future use as a community asset. By investing in the play areas this will contribute to the sustainability of the Parish by creating a place that people want to live in which meets the needs of families. There are also additional benefits to health, social interaction/cohesion, reduction in crime and fear of crime for older people, plus reduced maintenance costs in the short term.

The Parish currently has the following play areas as listed below.

Bignall End Ward

1. Bignall End Road
2. Albert Street
3. Rileys Field, Wood Lane – Muga/basketball court

Halmer End Ward

4. Miles Green
5. Halmer End
6. Scot Hay
7. Alsagers Bank – not council owned

Audley Ward

8. Alsager Road
9. Queen Street – Cara

A community needs assessment has been conducted based on data available through crime statistics, census data and a detailed consultation carried out with the local high school. A review of the current play provision has also been conducted along with the life span, the catchment area within a one mile radius and also the risk assessment conducted as part of the last Annual inspection.

The strategy also provides a proposal for discussion by the Parish Council at the next available meeting and consideration of the adoption and implementation of this strategy through a number of actions to be agreed.

2. National Policy context

On behalf of the Office for Deputy Prime Minister in 2003, Sir John Egan carried out a review of the skills required to deliver sustainable communities. Egan's concept of a sustainable community has greatly influenced both government policies and regeneration strategies since 2003: "Sustainable communities meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, their children and other users, contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunity and choice. They achieve this in ways that make effective use of natural resources, enhance the environment, promote social cohesion and inclusion and strengthen economic prosperity." (Egan Review 2004 ODPM, p7).

The Egan Review uses the definition of sustainable community to identify in diagrammatic terms seven key components of what makes a community sustainable. This diagram is commonly referred to as the Egan Wheel see Fig 1 and the components are known as the 'Common Goal'. (Egan Review 2004 ODPM, pp19-20).



Fig 1

Barton *et al* also reinforce the principles set out in the Egan Review 2004 that the aspirations for neighbourhoods are consistent across all residents within the neighbourhoods i.e. "they all want areas that are attractive, safe, healthy with access to high-quality local facilities and access to green spaces" (Barton *et al*, 2003,p2). Barton *et al* also recognise the connection with health in that the neighbourhood it is of vital importance for physical, mental and social well-being of the residents, particularly old and young. (Barton *et al*, 2003, p2).

Barton *et al* makes the link between quality play for the young and the positive impact on their well-being "the evidence on physical activity (contributing to healthy lifestyles) varies from place to place but overall is strong. Time spent outdoors is a key determinant of a child's overall level of physical activity. The key factors are accessibility, quality and use" (Barton *et al*, 2003, p140). In accordance with the National Playing Field Association (1992) 'six-acre' standard, Barton et al recommend that "**Adventure Play activities popular with local 8 – 14 year olds e.g. skateboarding, cycling, climbing and football ... should have a target maximum distance of 1 – 1.2km or 15 minutes' walking, 5 minutes cycling**" (Barton *et al*, 2003, p140). (Barton, H., Grant, M., and Guise, R. (2010) *Shaping Neighbourhoods for Local Health and Global Sustainability*. 2nd edn)

Within the Egan Wheel, a safe community is one of the fundamental building blocks for a successful community as follows: “People are very clear about what they want from their communities – places that are safe, clean, friendly, and prosperous, with good amenities such as education, health services, shopping and green spaces. These priorities are widely known, and have been shown to work in successful communities that have built up over hundreds of years.” (Egan Review 2004 ODPM, p3).

3. Community Needs Assessment

Haufman and Mayer (1993) define needs assessment as a process we use to:

- Identify gaps between current results and desired ones.
- Place the gaps in results (needs) in priority order.
- Select the most important ones to be addressed.

The following information has been researched to provide an evidence base for the strategy and the needs assessment.

Background to Parish of Audley

The Parish of Audley is the largest in area in the District of Newcastle-under-Lyme, covering some 2717 hectares. The Parish has a population of around 6600 on the electoral role at Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council at September 2011 – see Appendix 1. The Parish comprises of 7 distinctly separate villages (Audley, Scot Hay, Halmer End, Bignall End, Miles Green, Alsagers Bank, Wood Lane). There is a mix of predominately private sector housing interlaced with small social housing estates, with vast amounts of green belt open spaces separating the villages.

There are 3 primary schools – Sir Richard Heathcote Primary School in Alsagers Bank, Wood Lane Primary School and Ravensmead Primary School. One High School – Sir Thomas Boughey High School in Halmer End.

Age Profile

Census 2011 Statistics	0-15 years (%)	16-24 years (%)	Total (%) under 24 years overall in population
<i>Audley and Bignall End Ward (Borough)</i>	17	10	27
<i>Halmer End Ward (Borough)</i>	16	9	25
<i>Within Parish Boundary</i>	16.7 (7% are 10 -15 years)	9.6	26.3

Population of Audley Parish is 8437 people of which:

826 are aged 0 – 9

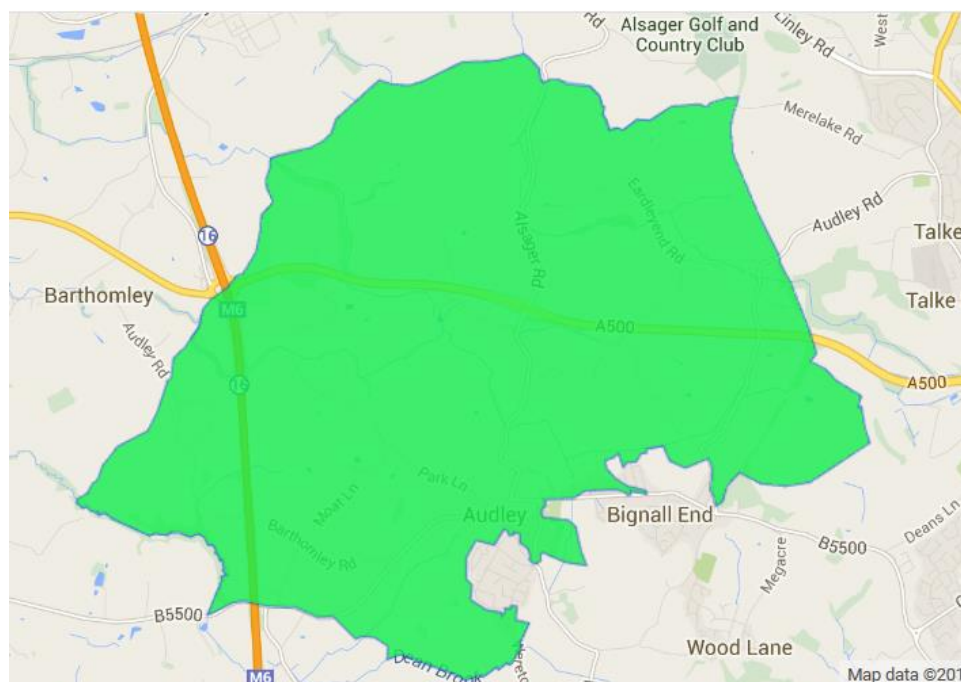
587 are aged 10 – 14

811 are aged 16 – 24

As 26% of the Parish are aged under 24 years old, it is important to consider their needs within the overall provision of facilities.

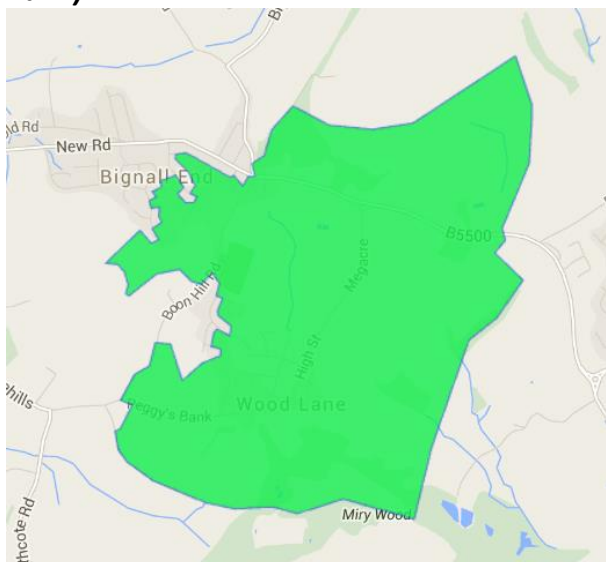
Reported ASB monthly crime stats from 2011 to Dec 2014 (cases are over 5 are in orange)
 (source <https://www.ukcrimestats.com>)

E01029532 Newcastle-under-Lyme (Census LLSOA 005A) (centre of Audley and outer rural areas)



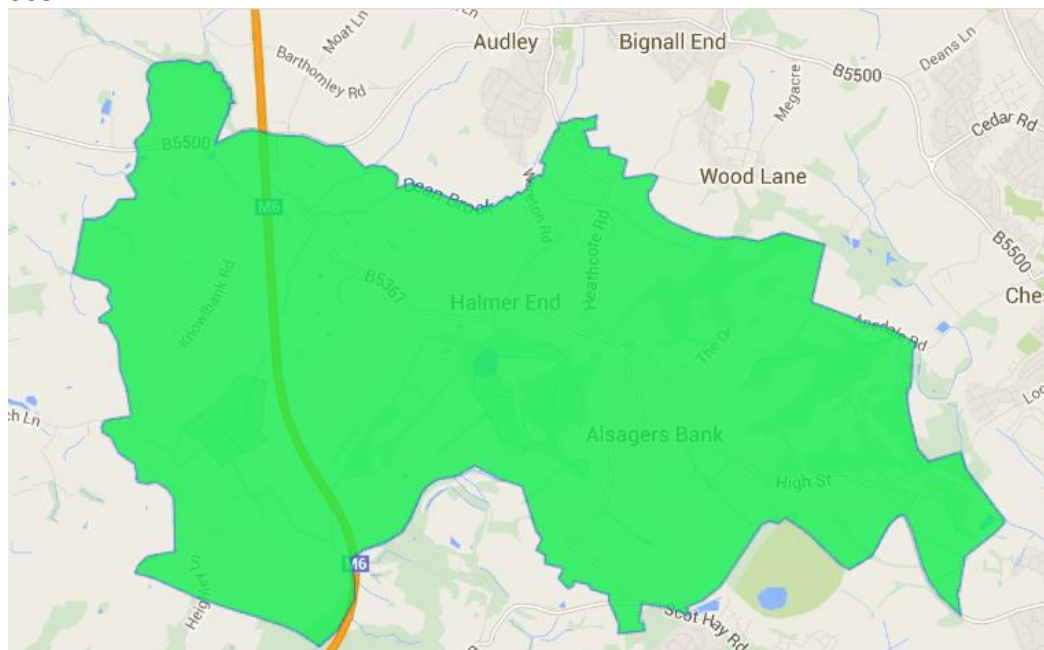
2014	ASB	2013	ASB	2012	ASB	2011	ASB
Dec 2014	11	Dec 2013	0	Dec 2012	3	Dec 2011	3
Nov 2014	14	Nov 2013	4	Nov 2012	1	Nov 2011	2
Oct 2014	7	Oct 2013	5	Oct 2012	15	Oct 2011	6
Sep 2014	3	Sep 2013	10	Sep 2012	16	Sep 2011	3
Aug 2014	6	Aug 2013	5	Aug 2012	9	Aug 2011	4
Jul 2014	9	Jul 2013	7	Jul 2012	7	Jul 2011	1
Jun 2014	3	Jun 2013	2	Jun 2012	6	Jun 2011	3
May 2014	6	May 2013	6	May 2012	9	May 2011	3
Apr 2014	6	Apr 2013	5	Apr 2012	9	Apr 2011	1
Mar 2014	3	Mar 2013	2	Mar 2012	14	Mar 2011	6
Feb 2014	7	Feb 2013	11	Feb 2012	9	Feb 2011	1
Jan 2014	3	Jan 2013	15	Jan 2012	2	Jan 2011	1

E01029533 Newcastle under Lyme 005B (includes top of Bignall End, Wood Lane, Butters Green, Peggys Bank)



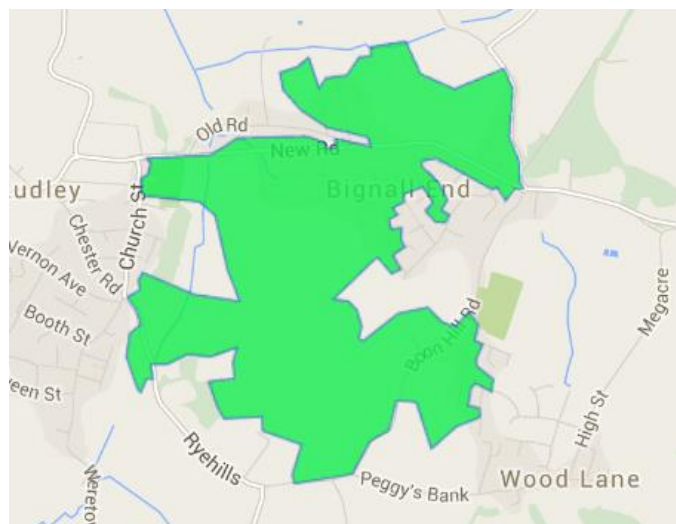
2014	ASB	2013	ASB	2012	ASB	2011	ASB
Dec 2014	0	Dec 2013	2	Dec 2012	0	Dec 2011	0
Nov 2014	2	Nov 2013	2	Nov 2012	0	Nov 2011	5
Oct 2014	1	Oct 2013	1	Oct 2012	1	Oct 2011	1
Sep 2014	2	Sep 2013	3	Sep 2012	1	Sep 2011	0
Aug 2014	5	Aug 2013	3	Aug 2012	1	Aug 2011	5
Jul 2014	4	Jul 2013	1	Jul 2012	1	Jul 2011	3
Jun 2014	1	Jun 2013	0	Jun 2012	0	Jun 2011	1
May 2014	0	May 2013	0	May 2012	0	May 2011	3
Apr 2014	0	Apr 2013	1	Apr 2012	1	Apr 2011	1
Mar 2014	5	Mar 2013	1	Mar 2012	3	Mar 2011	1
Feb 2014	0	Feb 2013	1	Feb 2012	3	Feb 2011	3
Jan 2014	2	Jan 2013	2	Jan 2012	0	Jan 2011	2

E01029556 (Includes Halmer End play area Miles Green, Alsagers Bank, Scot Hay) Newcastle under Lyme 005E



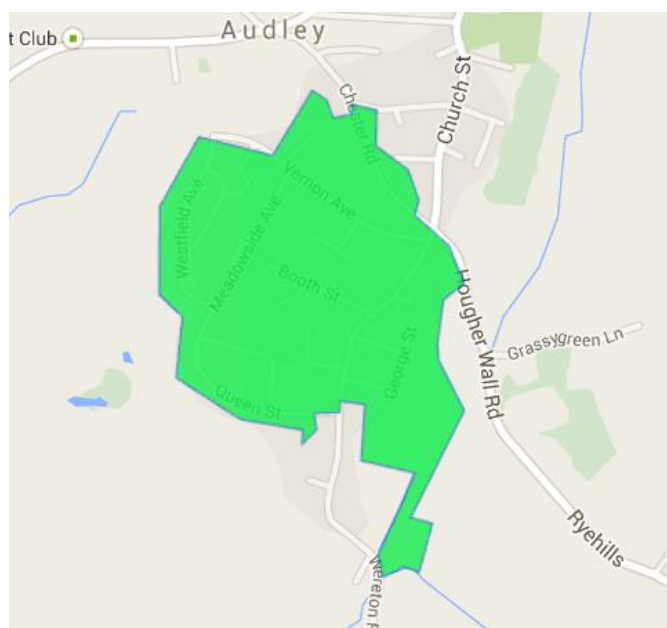
2014	ASB	2013	ASB	2012	ASB	2011	ASB
Dec 2014	1	Dec 2013	6	Dec 2012	1	Dec 2011	5
Nov 2014	7	Nov 2013	2	Nov 2012	6	Nov 2011	2
Oct 2014	5	Oct 2013	4	Oct 2012	11	Oct 2011	4
Sep 2014	6	Sep 2013	5	Sep 2012	6	Sep 2011	2
Aug 2014	4	Aug 2013	5	Aug 2012	6	Aug 2011	6
Jul 2014	3	Jul 2013	5	Jul 2012	13	Jul 2011	9
Jun 2014	3	Jun 2013	2	Jun 2012	4	Jun 2011	9
May 2014	5	May 2013	4	May 2012	6	May 2011	5
Apr 2014	7	Apr 2013	6	Apr 2012	4	Apr 2011	11
Mar 2014	6	Mar 2013	7	Mar 2012	4	Mar 2011	11
Feb 2014	2	Feb 2013	5	Feb 2012	1	Feb 2011	2
Jan 2014	5	Jan 2013	5	Jan 2012	6	Jan 2011	4

E01029534 Newcastle under Lyme 005C (includes Bignall End, Boon Hill)



2014	ASB	2013	ASB	2012	ASB	2011	ASB
		Dec 2013	2	Dec 2012	4	Dec 2011	4
Nov 2014	4	Nov 2013	3	Nov 2012	4	Nov 2011	2
Oct 2014	4	Oct 2013	3	Oct 2012	6	Oct 2011	5
Sep 2014	2	Sep 2013	5	Sep 2012	7	Sep 2011	3
Aug 2014	5	Aug 2013	4	Aug 2012	4	Aug 2011	2
Jul 2014	2	Jul 2013	6	Jul 2012	9	Jul 2011	1
Jun 2014	0	Jun 2013	4	Jun 2012	1	Jun 2011	1
May 2014	3	May 2013	7	May 2012	4	May 2011	1
Apr 2014	2	Apr 2013	6	Apr 2012	5	Apr 2011	2
Mar 2014	2	Mar 2013	2	Mar 2012	10	Mar 2011	0
Feb 2014	3	Feb 2013	9	Feb 2012	5	Feb 2011	3
Jan 2014	0	Jan 2013	9	Jan 2012	2	Jan 2011	0

E01029535 Newcastle under Lyme 005D (includes Queen Street play area and surrounding streets)



2014	ASB	2013	ASB	2012	ASB	2011	ASB
Dec 2014	0	Dec 2013	2	Dec 2012	4	Dec 2011	2
Nov 2014	1	Nov 2013	1	Nov 2012	1	Nov 2011	1
Oct 2014	1	Oct 2013	2	Oct 2012	3	Oct 2011	1
Sep 2014	3	Sep 2013	6	Sep 2012	2	Sep 2011	3
Aug 2014	1	Aug 2013	7	Aug 2012	2	Aug 2011	3
Jul 2014	7	Jul 2013	5	Jul 2012	5	Jul 2011	5
Jun 2014	3	Jun 2013	6	Jun 2012	3	Jun 2011	4
May 2014	6	May 2013	3	May 2012	2	May 2011	1
Apr 2014	7	Apr 2013	2	Apr 2012	3	Apr 2011	2
Mar 2014	4	Mar 2013	4	Mar 2012	1	Mar 2011	8
Feb 2014	7	Feb 2013	3	Feb 2012	5	Feb 2011	4
Jan 2014	2	Jan 2013	2	Jan 2012	1	Jan 2011	2

Crime Stats (ASB) May to November 2014 of Audley and Halmer End Neighbourhood (taken from Staffordshire Police Website)

Month 2014	No of ASB out of total reported Crimes	Percentage
May	21 out of 62	34%
June	12 out of 54	22%
July	26 out of 57	46%
August	24 out of 38	63%
Sept	16 out of 47	34%
Oct	Not available	
Nov	28 out of 52	54%

Maps showing reported crimes in November 2014 :

Fig 1 – Audley and Bignall End

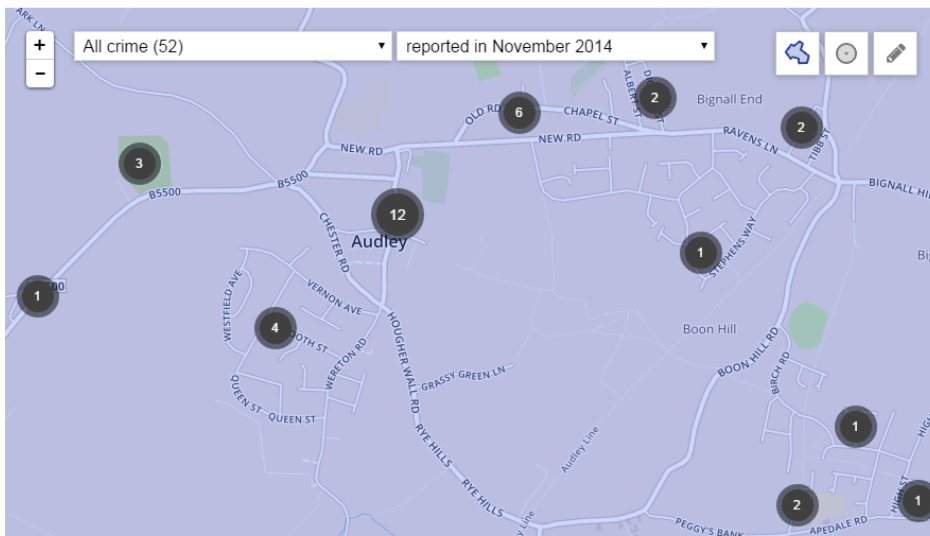
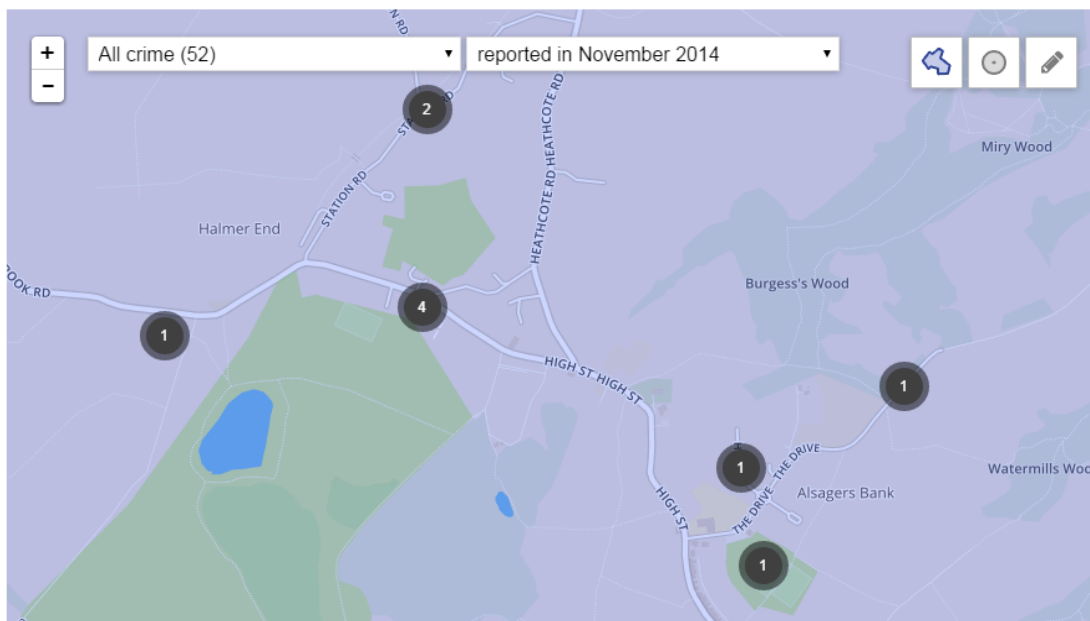


Fig 2 – Halmer End, Alsagers Bank and Wood Lane



Findings from the crime statistics for November 2014:

Highest concentration of ASB appears to be in or near to Audley village with 14 out of 28 (50%) in November 2014:

- 1 Church Bank 2, Wilbrahams Walk 1, Butchers Arms 2, Church Street shops 4, Hall Street 1, Ravens Close 1, Old Road 2, Westfield Ave 1
- 2 Audley Cricket Club - 2 (plus criminal damage/arson)
- 3 Wereton Road/Station Road 2 – not linked to play area
- 4 Diglake Street 1 – not linked to play area
- 5 Halmer End - 2 near to Play area but not linked
- 6 Alsagers Bank – 1 on Play area

This trend also concurs with the 4 year statistics from January 2011 to December 2014 – where the highest concentration of ASB would seem to be linked to the village centre, but is not seasonal.

In a case study in Hampshire, publicised by Home Office, alcohol was the major contributing factor to rising levels of anti-social behaviour by local youths. The main cause of complaints were large numbers of juveniles, aged 12-18, often drinking, outside convenience stores. Additionally it was concluded that “boredom through inadequate local leisure facilities was cited as a common problem behind anti-social behaviour.....there were plenty of play areas for younger children, but no recreational facilities specifically for older youths” (*Home Office [online] accessed 10.11.11*). Some interventions used in the Case Study included:

- Mobile recreation unit
- Youth Shelter
- Skate boarding ramps
- Drop in centre for youths
- A forest location as alternative place for youths
- A strong partnership of Youth, Parish, Police

Although there were a small number of prosecutions and ABCs, the majority of interventions were based on physical preventative measures rather than punishment. There was a net reduction in ASB incidents attributable to the project action estimated at 44%. Residents commented that the quality life had been restored. (*Home Office [online] accessed 10.11.11*).

Similarities to the Parish of Audley can be drawn from the case study. There are 8 play areas for children from 2 to 6 years of age. However there are limited leisure and recreational facilities available for youths in Audley other than one multi-use games area remotely located in Wood Lane; unlit grass football pitches; a commercial Climbing Centre; and there was a free youth bus operated Staffordshire County Council Youth Services on alternative Thursday evenings in Audley and Halmer End – although it is thought that this is no longer provided. Additionally there is a drop in for Youths at Audley Community Centre on Friday nights, but generally there is a cohort of youths who choose not to attend the usual clubs etc on offer and congregate and drink in public areas around the centre of Audley. Therefore their needs must also be considered if there is to be a positive impact on the overall sustainability of the Parish.

Results of Youth Consultation in 2013 with Sir Thomas Boughey High School

Following a number of ASB incidents in 2012/2013 seemingly caused by young people in the Parish (although some were from outside of the Parish), two meetings were held with the Sir Thomas Boughey High School in November 2012 and again in February 2013. Key partners such as the police, parish council, ward councillors, community organisations and the Head teacher attended along with each year group represented by a pupil.

A survey was conducted, led by the school council, to ask the pupils where they liked to hang out, what times they went out and came home, and also what they would like to see in the Parish. A total of 517 responses were obtained (270 male and 247 female) across the school year groups – broken down into figure A below:

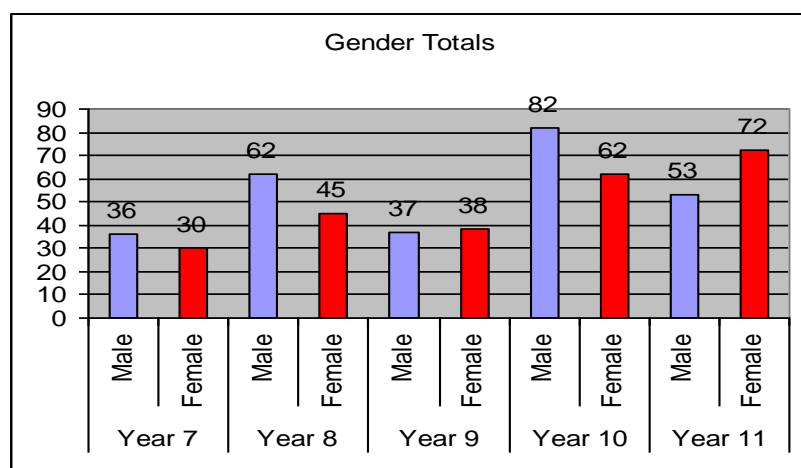


Figure A – Survey responses for each year split into male and female (Source: STBH 2013)

Age of pupils in each year:

Year 7 (11-12 yrs)

Year 8 (12-13 yrs)

Year 9 (13-14 yrs)

Year 10 (14-15 yrs)

Year 11 (15-16 yrs)

The following results were identified:

1. Top 3 preferred places to hang out after school during the week and at weekends:

Year 7 – 19% Audley, 15% Newcastle, 10% Halmer End

Year 8 – 40% Audley, 29% Newcastle, 26% Halmer End

Year 9 – 24% Audley, 18% Halmer End, 17% Newcastle

Year 10 – 40% Audley, 39% Waterhayes, 25% Newcastle, (23% Halmer End)

Year 11 – 46% Audley, 32% Newcastle, 16 % Halmer End

Bus travel to Newcastle Town Centre is reasonably regular with buses running every 20 minutes between Mon-Sat: 5:30 AM–11:30 PM with the trip taking approximately 30 mins. In the majority of cases, the next preferred location was split between Newcastle town centre (located approx. 6 miles away outside of the Parish) with Halmer End following (located within the Parish 1.5 miles away). However in all cases Audley was the preferred choice above all others, despite the regular bus service that is provided. Therefore it's clear that the young people aged between 11 to 16 years old would prefer to stay within the Parish and Audley in particular.

Preferred choice across all ages: **Audley**

2. Top wish list item to be provided in the Parish:

- Year 7– Astroturf, fastfood, arcade - skate park was 6th
- Year 8 – Swimming pool, youth club, fastfood – skate park was 5th
- Year 9 – Skate park, new better park, café/fastfood
- Year 10 – Swimming pool, astroturf, cinema – skate park was 8th
- Year 11 – Park for teenagers, astroturf, skate park

Preferred choices across all age/genders: **swimming pool, astroturf/3G, improving existing parks and a skate park.**

At the last meeting in February 2013 it was agreed that the group would consider the lists provided by the children and come back to a future meeting to agree the following:

- What is already available in the area
- What we can draw from the top 10 lists provided - short term and long term projects
- What we can improve upon within the Parish that is already provided eg cinema clubs etc, laser tag, roller discs etc

To date no further meeting has been held. Therefore it would be fair to consider what we can do to move this projects forward, to allow a response to be given to those that took part in the consultation, so that they feel valued and do not feel like they have had their aspirations built up unnecessarily.

Options appraisal of the preferred choices:

Swimming pools are already provided by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council “Jubilee2” pool in Newcastle (6 miles) and also at Chesterton High school (2.3 miles). As above buses run regularly to Newcastle, and also every 10 minutes to Chesterton between Mon-Sat: 5:30 AM–11:30 PM. Jubilee 2 is open Monday to Friday 6.30am to 10pm and 8am to 8pm at the weekends and the pool at Chesterton is available for public hire every evening and at weekends. In response to this request, consideration could be given to starting up a local swimming club for young people, if interested volunteers and coaches could be identified. However it is considered that there are adequate facilities within close proximity to the Parish, therefore this is already addressed. If transport is an issue, then maybe there is the opportunity to discuss with the local bus service providers to see if a discounted service running to/from Newcastle or Chesterton could be agreed for pupils attending the High School.

Astroturf/3G - Audley Football Club received £3,000 in December 2014 towards the annual cost (£4,000) of hiring the 3G pitches at Chesterton High School (located 2.3 miles away) to ensure more children can play every week. The club has 130 to 140 players aged seven years and above, including girls who currently train every Wednesday from 6pm to 9pm. As there are already new facilities provided in Chesterton, and the average cost of 3G pitches cost between £400 – 600K to build, it is therefore considered that this request is already addressed. However potentially the High School pupils may not be aware of the facilities in the next neighbourhood or the activities need to be organised. Consideration should be given to liaising between the school and Audley Football Club, to see if any of the pupils are interested in joining the club or a separate afterschool club can be arranged in conjunction with local youth clubs.

Improvements to existing parks/creating of teenager park/skate park – Despite the Parish Council providing 8 play areas (including one MUGA) There is currently no skate park in the Parish, although the Parish has 8 play areas and a MUGA and the Children of Audley Residents Association (CARA) also provide an additional site in Queen Street, Audley, aimed at older children following the installation of a youth shelter, zip wire, basket swing and football pitch/goals. This site had been earmarked as an approved Playbuilder scheme which unfortunately, despite receiving planning permission, had the funding pulled due to change in government policy. A skate park is estimated to cost around £50k installed. The main item of equipment which generally features in most skate parks is a half-pipe. This would cost in the region of £20k installed and would suitable for scooters, bmx’s, roller/inline

skates as well as skateboards. Therefore a teenager park/skate park is considered to be the most realistic, affordable and deliverable item which all year groups have requested in the Parish.

4. Proposal

4.1 Cara Site to be the designated Teenager Park for the Parish and also to be enhanced to provide the main play facilities for the Ward of Audley

Reasons:

STBH consultation (over 517 children aged 12 to 16 provided usable responses) was clear that all age groups were in favour of a skate/scooter/bmx park and the area which most visited was Audley Village, with Halmer End second.

Crime stats show Audley village is a magnet for ASB – potentially teenagers even in winter months, but shown to increase over summer holidays. Historic issues include criminal damage to allotments in Audley and setting fire/building camps in Leddys Field, hanging around shops in Village and Churchyard, large gatherings of young people.

Number of properties in 1 mile radius is 300 (highest overall all play areas). This would be considered the main play area for the Audley ward.

Proposed equipment:

In response to this, all efforts should be put into assisting CARA to seek the funds necessary to install a skate board ramp at a cost of £20k approx on a level tarmac surface (3 quotes to be obtained).

Half pipe ramp (suitable for bikes, skateboards, scooters) would be located at bottom of site, where it would be surrounded by fields/open space. Ramp used would be of a surface which minimised noise. Top end is lined by houses which provide surveillance. CARA is submitting a bid to LAFARGE for funding to create grassed BMX humps approx. £50k which would complement this. Possibly consider including CARA site in the overall Reaching Communities bid (Lottery funding up to £500k) to complete the scheme in terms of additional play equipment for all ages.

Funding:

£20k required

Lottery Awards for All bid £10k – Cara bid

Parish Council - £10k match funding (reserves 15/16)

Time scale:

Summer 2015

Work carried out so far to site:

Community are in support of the area being used as a youth park – which would be a major risk to project if not. Will be located at least 30 meters from houses (planning requirements), has previously achieved planning for play area (Playbuilder funding pulled after planning achieved therefore aspirations have already been raised). Site already contains a youth shelter, benches, toddler play area, zip wire, aerial glider, basket swing, fitness equipment x 4, football pitch and is a secured fenced area which can be locked if necessary if there are issues over the times of the site being used.

£25,000-00 for the Ground Work (drainage levelling and reinstate)

£6,000-00 for Hardcore Path (this is largely over grown but it will still supply the base for Tarmac

£18,000-00 for the Toddler Area (includes £5,000-00 from Coalfields Regeneration Trust)

£10,000-00 new Park Gates and a Teen Shelter, capacity for 20 children(Grant from Aspire)

£21,010-00 for Zip Wire and Ariel Glider. (Grant from the SITA Landfill Trust)

£4,000-00 for a Basket Swing supplied by CARA

£1,450-00 Strengthen Shelter Roof, Repaint. Paint Container and Install Concrete Bases (SCC)

£85,460-00 Total spent on site

Funded by CARA £48,010-00p

OUTSIDE GRANTS - £37,450-00p

£ 5,000-00 Coalfields Regeneration

£18,900-00 SITA Trust

£ 2,100-00 Staffordshire County Council (SITA Landfill Tax)

£10,000-00 Aspire Housing

£ 1,450-00 Staffordshire County Council

Also 11 years of maintenance re- repairs and grass cutting.

4.2 Create 2 super play areas for ages up to 12 years of age in the Parish Wards of Bignall End and Halmer End (one play area per Ward)

Play area Assessment of Current provision and scoring matrix:

Orange = more than 10 years lifespan

Red = 5 to 10 years lifespan

Risk level of repairs required = very low risk or low risk

Data as per Annual Inspection 2014 carried out in November 2014

Parish Ward	Play area	Slide (1 point)	Spinning Pole (1 point)	Climbing Frame (1 point)	Spring Mobile (1 point)	Swings (2 points)	Basket swing (2 points)	See Saw (1 point)	Total Play equipment score	Basketball	Goal Posts	Fitness Equipment	Overall Total equip	TOTAL SCORE	RANKING	Order of Use (S Hough)
Bignall End	Bignall End Road	X low risk	X very low risk	X very low risk	X very low risk				4				4/14	9	4 th	5 th
	Albert Street	X low risk		X very low risk		X low risk			4		x		5/14	6	1 st	1 st
	Rileys Field, Wood Lane									x	x				N/A	
Halmer End	Miles Green	X low risk	X very low risk	X very low risk		X low risk		X very low risk	6	x	x	X X X	11/14	14	7 th	3 rd
	Halmer End	X low risk		X very low risk		X low risk		X very low risk	5		x		6/14	8	2 nd	2 nd
	Scot Hay	X low risk	X very low risk		X very low risk			X very low risk	4		x		5/14	13	6 th	7 th
	Alsagers Bank	X low risk	X very low risk	X very low risk			X very low risk	X low risk	6				5/14	11	5 th	6 th
Audley	Alsager Road	X low risk			X very low risk	X low risk		X very low risk	5				4/14	8	3 rd	4 th

Halmer End is 2nd over Alsager Road as there are more pieces of equipment with limited life span and more repairs.

Number of properties within 1 mile radius of Play area (taken at the point where it is likely to include the most):

			Eligible for BIG Lottery Reaching Communities Funding
Bignall End Ward	Albert Street	270	No
Bignall End Ward	Bignall End Road	269	No
Halmer End Ward	Halmer End	169	Yes
Halmer End Ward	Miles Green	157	Yes
Halmer End Ward	Scot Hay	129	Yes
Halmer End Ward	Alsagers Bank	120	Yes
Audley Ward	Queen Street	300	Yes
Audley Ward	Alsagers Road	202	No

Reasons

In view of the Play area assessment carried out by the Clerk for the remaining Parish play areas it is suggested that the following play areas are given priority for the improvements in the near future:

- 1 Halmer End (Halmer End Ward)
- 2 Albert Street (Bignall End Ward)

Halmer End is the most used play area in that Ward (and 2nd overall) as far as the Playground inspector Mr Hough is concerned. It also is second choice for the children at High School to visit and as such will complement the new Halmer End Institute project and any youth activities. When calculating the number of properties in a radius of a mile it was top of the Ward and is the nearest play area to the High School. There is also some evidence of ASB in the area. It also receives most of the repairs in comparison to the other play areas and could be considered to be well used as a result. It is also overlooked by residents who back on to the property from 2 sides, with the allotments being at the rear and the Institute and Bowling Club on the other side.

Albert Street is the most used play area both in Bignall End Ward and also being the top overall, according to Steve Hough from seeing the amount of children that use it. The number of properties within the radius is 270, with Bignall end Road following closely behind. However Bignall End Road may be affected if the open cast proposals are approved. So in the short term it is considered more appropriate to improve Albert Street, and to encourage the children to play there rather than Bignall End Road. Generally the site within a large open field, lined with trees at the rear of the boundary and at the end of a dead end road. It is overlooked by properties along the top side of the play area providing natural surveillance. It is also located on the same side of the road as Ravensmead Primary school, which should reduce the number of children needing to cross the busy main road.

Proposed Equipment

A range of equipment will be provided aimed at children up to the age of 12 years old. This will supplement what is already there. Additionally it is proposed to provide additional outdoor fitness equipment to allow older people, parents and grandparents to use the area, while the children use the equipment – to encourage natural supervision.

A consultation exercise will be needed to determine the exact equipment and it is proposed to involve the local School Councils at Ravensmead and Wood Lane Primary schools for Albert Street play area, and Richard Heathcote for Halmer End along with Year 7 and 8 of the School Council at Sir Thomas Boughey High School - in order to agree the a draft scheme of equipment for each site within an agreed budget e.g zip wire, basket swing (DDA) etc.

Planning Permission is likely to be required and a tender exercise will be needed, once a confirmed brief is drawn up.

Time Scale - The improvements will be carried out in two phases for each site – split over two financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Funding

Cost to be in region of £60k per play area

BIG Lottery funding is available in excess of £100k capital through the Reaching Communities Buildings Programme – which all play areas in the Borough Council's Halmer End Ward and also Queen Street would be eligible for. Therefore a bid could be developed with assistance from VAST over the course of the summer of 2015 for Halmer End (E01029556) and Queen Street (E01029535) through Reaching Communities totalling £120k. Funding for Albert Street could be raised through the Precept in 2016/17 by increasing the precept per year from £17.50 to £42.00 per Band D... (i.e. this would be extra 47p per week or £24.50 per year per house in Band D tax base). If further funding is needed then again the precept could be raised in 2017/18 to finish the schemes. Alternatively the Precept could be raised for Albert Street and Halmer End over two years to fund the two schemes if the lottery bid is unsuccessful. Funding raising for other equipment on Queen Street would need to be considered.

4.3 Continue with the routine maintenance of the other areas

The other sites will be reviewed in terms of their use, their suitability, ongoing maintenance and current provision in 2016/17 with the best course of action decided:

- 1 Alsager Road
- 2 Bignall End Road
- 3 Alsagers Bank
- 4 Scot Hay

Next Steps for approval:

1. Submit a bid for £10k to the Lottery Awards for All fund for Queen Street Half pipe skate park ramp asap developed with Cara – with match funding of up to £10k from the Parish Council. Cara to submit a bid for the BMX track at the same time to LaFarge. Cara to progress planning permission with NBC asap. Youths in Audley to be involved where possible to ensure it is owned by them and residents in the surrounding area to be notified of plans. Once approved and deliverable, Parish Council to top up remaining funds required for the half pipe (£10k approx.) from reserves for delivery in 2015. Tendering exercise to be carried out to achieve value for money.
2. Develop and submit a bid over the spring/summer of 2015 for Reaching Communities Building for Queen Street and Halmer End Play area for improvements to take place as soon as possible (likely to be 2016/17). Parish Council to set aside a budget to develop this bid – i.e. carry out a meaningful consultation exercise with local children/youths to develop 3 play schemes by bringing in additional resources.
3. Pending outcome of the above – consider raising the Precept to either fund Albert Street in 2016/17 or Halmer End as well if bid is unsuccessful.