

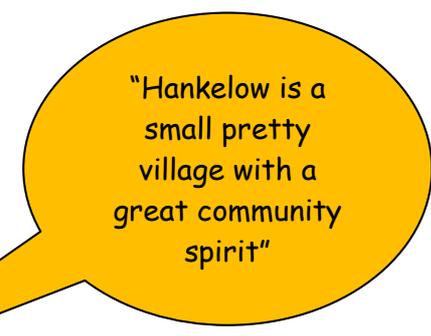
# Hankelow Parish Plan

March 2012



# CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 3
What is a Parish Plan and why produce one?	Page 4
Steering Group Members	Page 4
How we got here	Page 5
Questionnaire Results	Page 6
The Way Forward	Page 7
Transport and Footpaths	Page 8
Information and Communication	Page 11
Leisure and Recreation	Page 13
Sustainability	Page 15
History of Hankelow	Page 17
Population of the Village	Page 19
Maps and other information	Page 20
Action Plan Summary	Page 22
What happens next?	Page 27



"Hankelow is a small pretty village with a great community spirit"



"It's an unassuming, genuinely friendly place, where the inhabitants still walk around and greet each other sincerely."

**Cover Photograph:** Hankelow Pond © John Whitehead 2007

**Back Cover:** Hankelow Parish Map illustrated by Gary Thompson, 2010

## Introduction

In 2009, the Parish Council decided to see if the residents of Hankelow were interested in producing a Parish Plan. A meeting was organised at the Golf Club, and there was widespread support. The Hankelow Improvement Plan steering group is made up of some of the volunteers from this meeting.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- Encourage the residents to think about their village and community
- To find out what they value about the village
- To find out what they would like improving
- To put in place a plan for the future which, as far as possible, protects the parts they currently value, and enables the improvements which the majority of the villagers would like.
- To identify the actions required both by the villagers and the various councils to carry out the plan.

This document is the outcome of the Steering Group's work and has been endorsed by our Parish Council:

**As Chairman of the Parish Council I am pleased to introduce the Hankelow Parish Plan which I hope fairly represents the views of the Community expressed during the period of consultation which began early in 2010.**

Gin Foster (Parish Council Chairman)



Hankelow Village Fete 1911



Festival of Transport 2010

Source: Hankelow Fete 1911 source unknown. Festival of Transport ©Harriet Foster 2010

Hankelow village pond and green have always provided a focal point for village gatherings as the two photographs illustrate. Despite the gap of nearly 100 years between the photographs and an increase in the number of houses, the village has retained both its rural character and strong sense of community.

## **What is a Parish Plan and why produce one?**

A Parish Plan provides "an opportunity for people to take stock of their community and decide which aspects of their community they like and wish to preserve and perhaps enhance and which aspects they do not like and wish to change." (The Guide to Parish Plans - Cheshire Community Action)

The main aim of the Steering Group was to produce a Plan which identified the key issues raised by the Hankelow community, which if tackled successfully, would improve and develop the village for all residents, businesses and organisations.

The main proposals in the Plan derive from an analysis of the questionnaires delivered to every household in November 2010; suggestions made at public meetings held since then and the work of project teams established in June 2011.

The Plan is not, of course, the end of the process; rather the beginning. We need to move to an Action Plan where the key projects can be reviewed and evaluated as they move towards completion. The process of producing the Hankelow Improvement Plan has helped to develop the strong sense of community that already exists. The Plan is based on information provided by the community and the action plan will be delivered with community support and involvement in partnership with other agencies.

Some issues we can resolve ourselves in the short term. Others may need the involvement and approval of local government, individuals and other organisations. In particular the work of the Recreation and Amenities Committee in Hankelow (which has raised over £3,600 for charity) is testimony to the strength of community support.

So we will continue to rely on your help and support. If you would like to help us bring the proposals in the Plan to fruition please contact me or any member of the Steering Group.

Finally, I would like to thank the Steering Group and the many volunteers who have helped us get to this stage for their hard work and strong support over the past 2 years. Throughout we have had full backing from the Parish Council and Cheshire East Council and have received valuable help from officers of Cheshire Community Action.

**I commend this Plan to you; it is your plan and I hope after reading it you feel encouraged enough to join us in the next phase.**

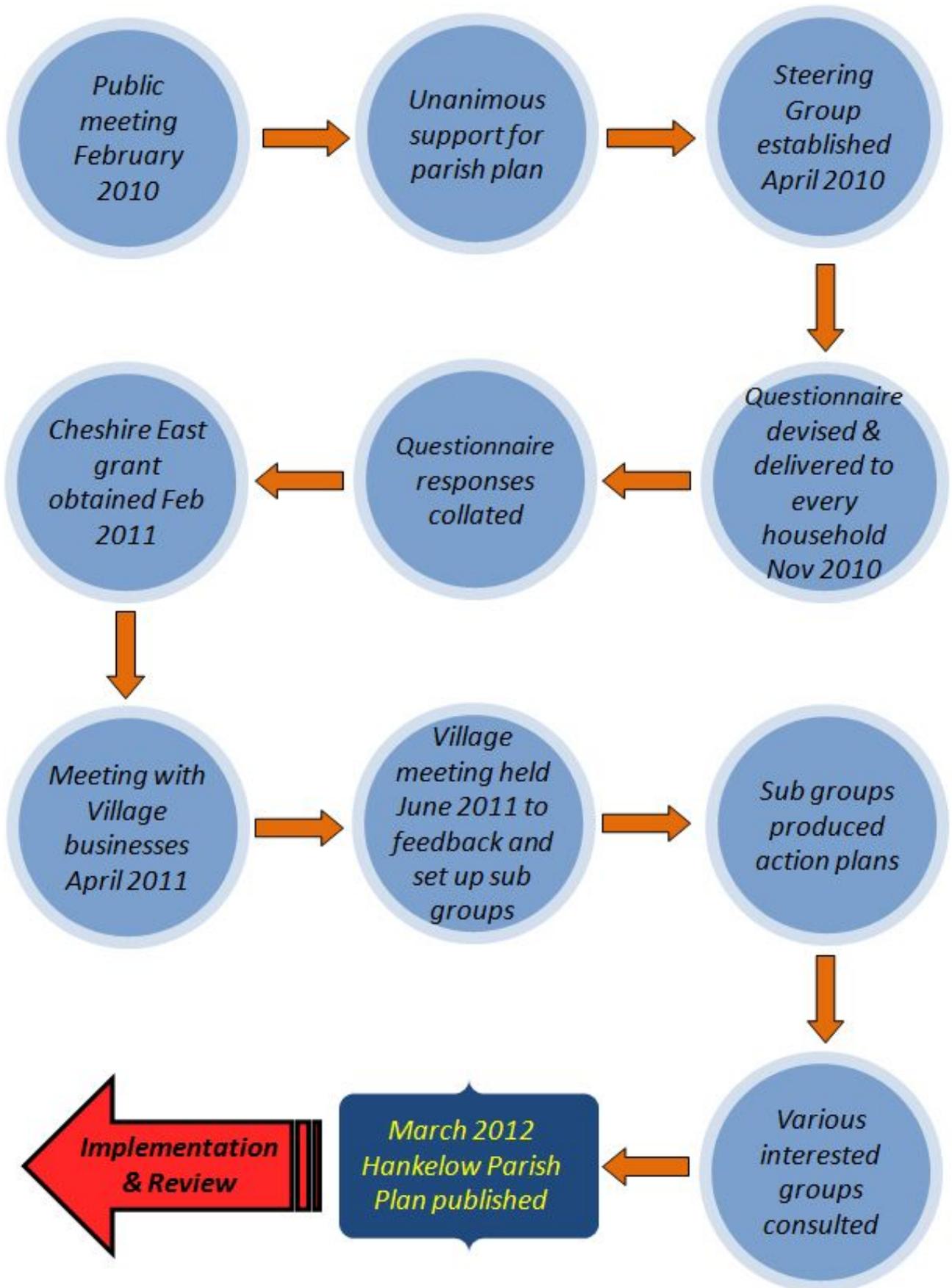
Tony Lee (Steering Group Chairman)

## **Steering Group**

Chair: Tony Lee (01270 811574),

Colin Ainley, Anne Draper, Gin Foster, Elizabeth Goodwin, Janet Maughan, John Meadows, Will Williams

## How we got here

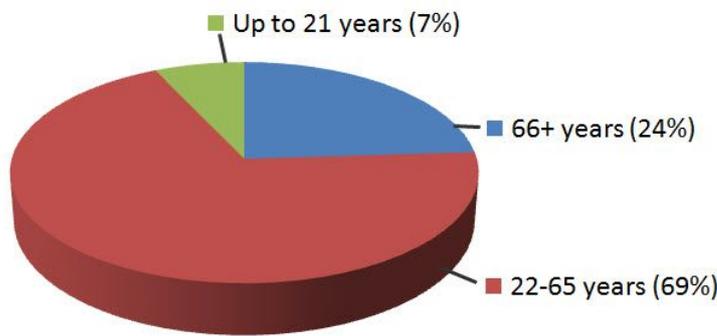


# Questionnaire Results

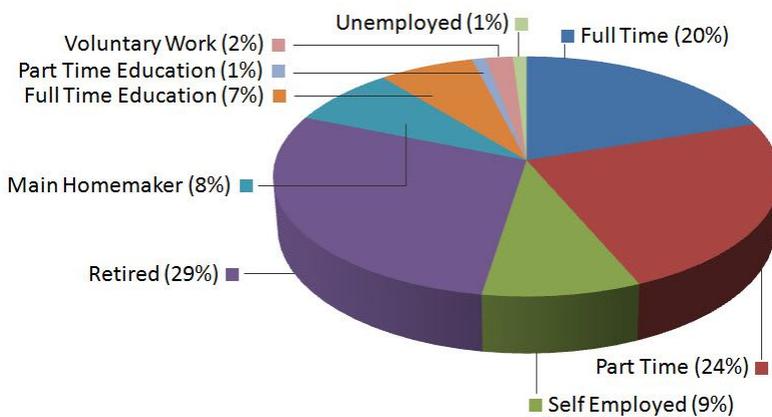
The questionnaire achieved a 62% response, an exceptional result, a testament to community involvement and relevance of the issues raised.

62% response rate with responses by age group matching village profile

Questionnaire responses by Age Group



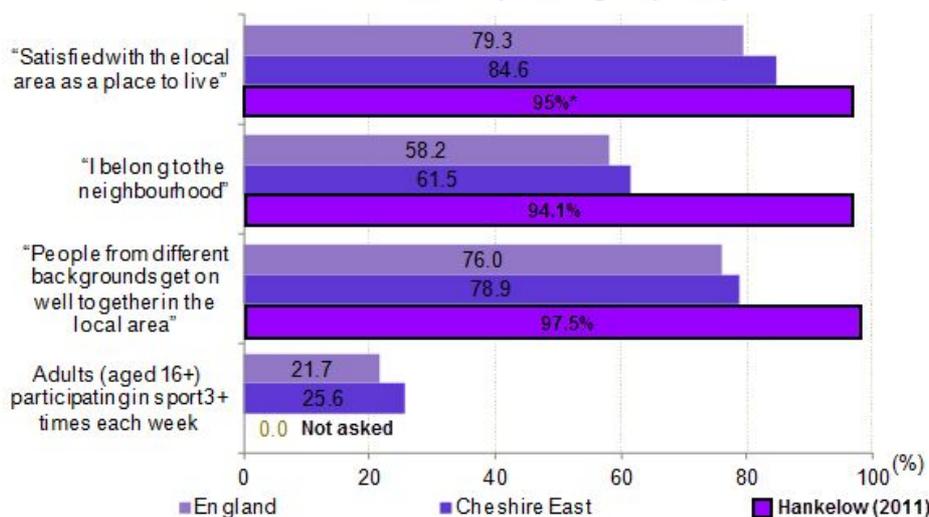
Questionnaire Responses by Employment Group



Responses were received from all economic groups. Analysis of the responses shows a close match to published age/employment profiles of the parish.

## How you feel about Hankelow

Indicators of Community Strength (2008)



Hankelow parishioners have a strong sense of satisfaction and belonging. The questions used in the graph are taken from the national Place Survey, 2008. Very similar questions were used in the Hankelow Questionnaire 2011. The sense of 'belonging' and 'community' significantly exceeds the average for England and Cheshire East, contributing to the strength and sustainability of our community.

\* Score is derived from written responses to Q1 and 2: 'What do you like best and least about Hankelow'. Source: Action for Communities in Rural England Rural Evidence Project. January 2012

## How you rate the facilities we already have

Bus Shelter	4	
Chapel/ Chapel School Room	4	
Library Van	4	
Local Bus Services	3	
Recreational Footpaths	3	
Roadside Footpaths	3	
Telephone Box	4	
Village Green	5	

### Guide to rating scores:

- 0 = never use
- 1 = very poor
- 2 = poor
- 3 = adequate
- 4 = good
- 5 = very good

## The Way Forward

The key action points have been drawn from the questionnaire results.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Transport</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support speed restriction campaign together with Parish Council.</li> <li>• Work with Hankelow and Audlem Parish Councils to investigate safe footpath between the villages.</li> <li>• Consider the state of pavements and recreational footpaths in the village and work with the Parish Council to improve the facilities.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Communication</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer support to current newsletter editor to maintain valuable service.</li> <li>• Provide link to Audlem website from Hankelow site and include various ideas to improve village website content.</li> <li>• Install new notice board in location of Swedish houses.</li> <li>• Work with Parish Council to improve communication to villagers.</li> <li>• Production of a Business Directory</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Leisure and recreation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to protect and upkeep the village green as an amenity for all.</li> <li>• Consider suitable sites and develop a nature reserve.</li> <li>• Planting of fruit trees on the village green when replacing other trees as an amenity for all.</li> <li>• Continue to support the work of the Hankelow Amenities Group and the events they organise for all.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sustainability</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate operating a 'share scheme' for compost, fruit and vegetables, plants.</li> <li>• Investigate garden share scheme interest and operation.</li> <li>• Investigate interest in and operation of car share scheme together with Audlem village.</li> <li>• Energy saving event in 2012 for residents with ongoing support for those wishing to improve their homes.</li> </ul>

The results of the questionnaire and the comments made by parishioners are available on [www.hankelow.net/village\\_plan](http://www.hankelow.net/village_plan).

Four focus groups were established to breakdown the tasks associated with each objective into the Action Plans presented in pages 22 to 26.



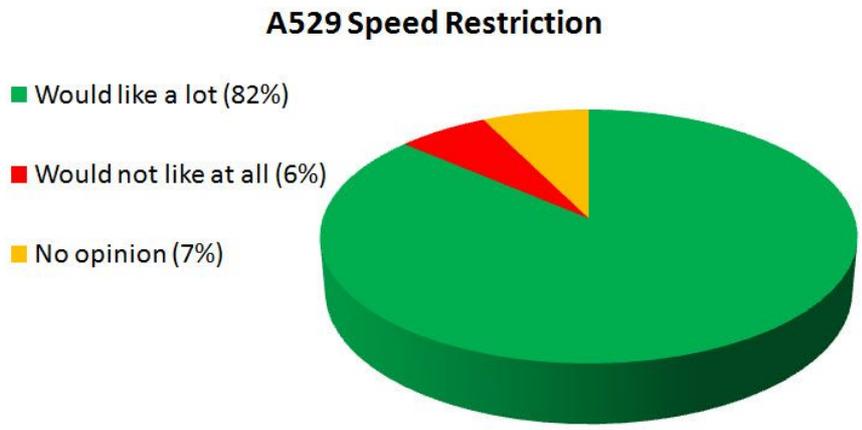
Following the publication of this plan the Steering Group will disband to be replaced by an Implementation and Review Group who will take the Action Plan projects forward to delivery. The role of this group is described in What happens next? on page 27.

# Transport and Footpaths

Transport includes private and public vehicle usage, cycling and walking using local roads and surfaced footpaths. Road traffic, particularly the speed of traffic on the A529, was consistently a strong concern across all participants in the village survey and associated meetings.

## Road Speed and Safety

### A529 Speed of Traffic passing through Hankelow



"Some way to calm down the speed on A529 urgently needed"

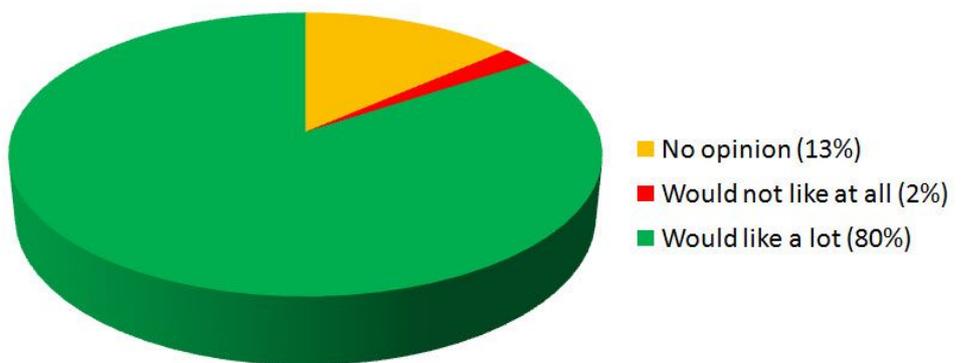
Traffic speed on the A529 has long been a concern for the residents of Hankelow. These concerns resulted in Cheshire County Council installing experimental 'Dragon's Teeth' Gateways in 2006 and, following a sustained campaign over recent years, the Parish Council was told that a speed limit of 30 mph was to be installed under Cheshire East Highways scheme MHWP 356 by April 2012. There is a high level of support for the 30mph speed restriction both in replies to the questionnaire and at public meetings held by the Hankelow Improvement Team.

(Action TF1 & TF2 - village transport group to continue to work with Cheshire East to develop an effective speed limit solution.)

### Restricted visibility: Longhill Lane/Hall Lane crossroads with A529

#### Safety Mirror: Longhill Lane - A529 Junction

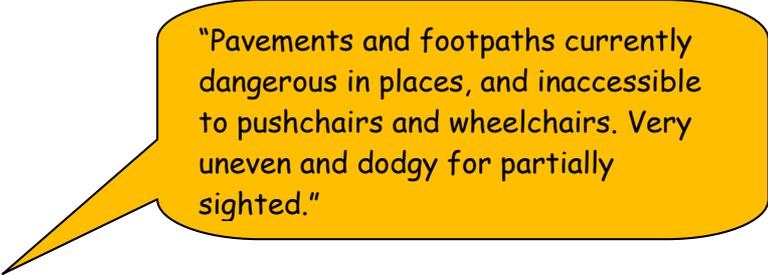
"Have to drive halfway into main road to be able to see what traffic is approaching"



The poor visibility for traffic emerging from Longhill Lane is compounded by the speed of traffic on the A529. There are numerous close calls and anecdotal evidence of at least one collision per

annum, usually without injury. There is a strong sentiment within the village that a safety mirror opposite the Longhill Lane exit would considerably improve visibility. Cheshire East Council has said that the placement of a traffic safety mirror is a decision reserved for the Department for Transport and that the Council does not believe that the visibility restrictions and accident history support the mirror placement. The Transport Group consider that an observed speed limit would reduce risk, although this should be monitored once a speed limit is established.

**(Action TF3 - to assess any reduction in risk following the introduction of a speed limit.)**



"Pavements and footpaths currently dangerous in places, and inaccessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs. Very uneven and dodgy for partially sighted."

### Roadside Footpaths

#### *A Safe footpath between Hankelow and Audlem*

The strongest recreational activity in Hankelow is walking (21%, Question 31). Although Audlem is the nearest centre for shopping and other recreational purposes, there is no continuous, safe footpath between Hankelow and Audlem along the shortest route, the A529. A paved footpath leads from the village to the boundary of the Corbrook Court Care Home for the Elderly where it terminates on a blind bend for approx 500 metres. The footpath then recommences on the opposite side of the road leading into Audlem. A permissive footpath through the grounds of Corbrook Court historically provided safe linkage but development of the site and recent security measures have resulted in access restrictions requiring walkers to brave a particularly fast and dangerous section of the A529.

Question 10a assessed a range of village improvement options based on initial findings of the first open public meeting. Of these options, the highest response was for a footpath to Audlem with 101 positive responses (85%).

**(Action TF4 - to explore options with relevant parties to find a way forward.)**

#### *State of paved footpaths within the village*

Paved footpaths within the village have become overgrown and uneven making passage difficult.

**(Action TF5 - liaise with Cheshire East and explore community action to maintain footpath safety.)**

## Information and Communication

### Village Newsletter



"I think the newsletter is fine"

It was clear from replies to the questionnaire that the most effective means of community communication is the quarterly village newsletter, edited and distributed single-handedly by Mr Charlie Foster, which is read by 85% of respondents.

**(Action IC1 - assess the support Mr Foster requires in order to continue to give this service to the village.)**

Hankelow has close ties with the village of Audlem which provides the nearest shopping and recreational facilities. Audlem produces a newsletter also relevant to Hankelow but not currently distributed within the parish. Responses to the questionnaire suggested that arranging this distribution within Hankelow will boost inter-community links and encourage the local economy.

**(Action IC2 - recruit distributors for Audlem Newsletter.)**

### Village Website



"Can we have emails about events, etc and ability to respond?"

The village website ([www.hankelow.net](http://www.hankelow.net)) was visited by 52% of respondents at least monthly. Many people seem not to be aware of the scope of the website, as they have asked for more information about such things as local planning applications and Parish Council minutes, both of which appear on the website. It would seem that more publicity about the website (including a link from the Audlem website which is much better resourced, and visited by many in Hankelow) would be helpful to villagers.

**(Action IC3 - request insertion of link from Audlem to Hankelow website from Audlem Web team.)**

## Village Notice Board



"Please include updates to bus timetable"

The notice board on the Green is viewed by 41% of villagers each month who describe it as a worthwhile village resource. In response to comments from the survey, the Parish Council have decided to erect a second notice board by the Swedish Houses to the north of the village.

## Parish Council



"Let's have Parish Council news via email and newsletter"

Communications between the villagers and the Parish Council were highlighted as something of a problem. The main means of communication is the minutes. Villagers are interested in what the Parish Council does in their name, but several would like the report to be less formal and more "modern". Interestingly, while most respondents (66%) said that they had just the right amount of information, and several said they did not have enough, no-one said they received too much information from the Parish Council. Only 7% of respondents expressed any interest in helping the work of the parish council.

Some villagers also suggested that details of Planning Applications and Parish Council minutes could be circulated by email to those villagers willing and able to give an email address.

**(Action IC4 - to refer these comments to the Parish Council and discuss inclusion of a summary of meeting minutes in the newsletter.)**

## Village Business Directory

The survey identified a significant number of businesses operating within the parish covering a wide range of sectors. Although details of these are now available on the Hankelow website, the Steering Group has proposed making these details available in paper format to distribute occasionally with the newsletter to provide information and encourage the local economy.

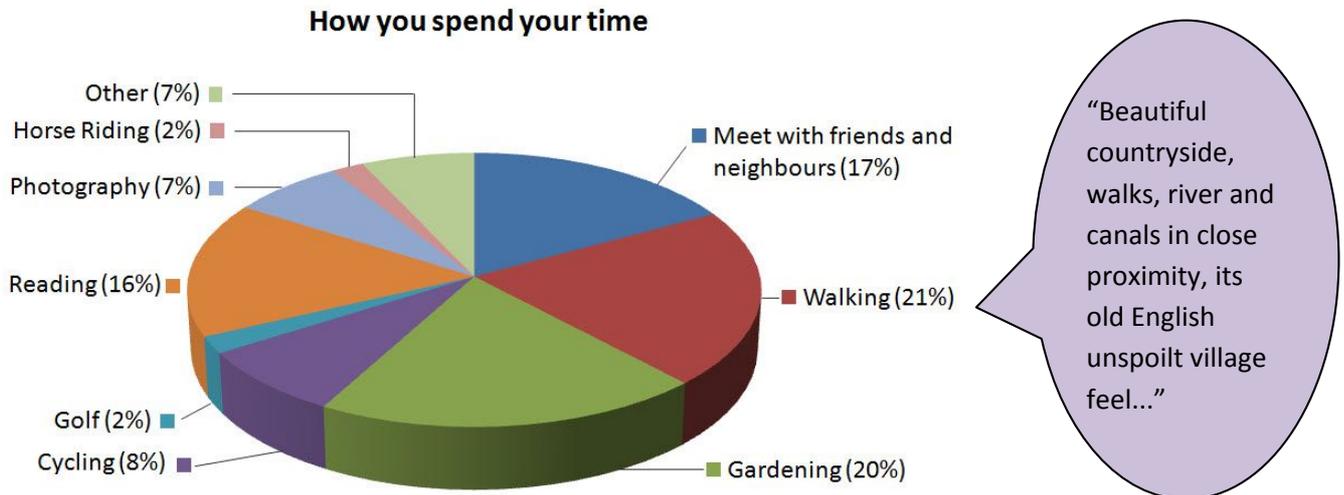
**(Action IC5 - create a paper version of the village business directory.)**

## Leisure and Recreation

The questionnaire covered both the subject of general leisure and recreation, and also recreational events organised in Hankelow.

### General Leisure

Rural pastimes are much in evidence in Hankelow, with walking, gardening, and meeting neighbours and friends all popular.



It is clear from the results of the questionnaire that the people of Hankelow value their village green, which is owned by the Parish Council. They enjoy using it, both as a place to stroll around and feed the ducks, and for the special events such as the Hankelow Fete and the Festival of Transport. It is important that this village amenity is protected as far as possible, so that it can continue to be used by the villagers.

**(Action RL1 - ensure protection and upkeep of village green)**

There was also indication that villagers would like to see fruit trees planted whenever there was cause to replace trees, see the Sustainability section.

**(Action RL2 - encourage replacement planting of fruit and nut trees on village green to provide a community resource.)**

There is general concern about the state of the recreational footpaths over the fields. These do vary according to the state of the crops and the weather conditions.

There is general support for wildlife, and a group has been set up.

**(Action RL3 - look into the possibility of establishing a nature reserve.)**

"I think the community organisers do a superb job and are to be congratulated"

## Organised events and groups

Hankelow has an active Amenities group, which puts on events throughout the year, raising money for both village amenities and charitable causes. In 2011 for example, they organised a fete, a sports and barbeque afternoon, a trip to Cholmondeley Gardens, an autumn supper, a concert, and Christmas carols round the tree on the green. These events are very popular, with 73% of residents saying they attend where possible. 28% thought that more events should be arranged; 31% thought that there were enough events, and 35% didn't know.

There is currently a monthly quiz, held in the Hankelow Cottage, which is very popular.

Several people had suggestions for other clubs and monthly events including a garden club, a book club, a walking group, a photography group, and a coffee morning - these await volunteers to run them. A golf society is being created.

**(Action RL4 - promote the creation of a golf society for the village.)**



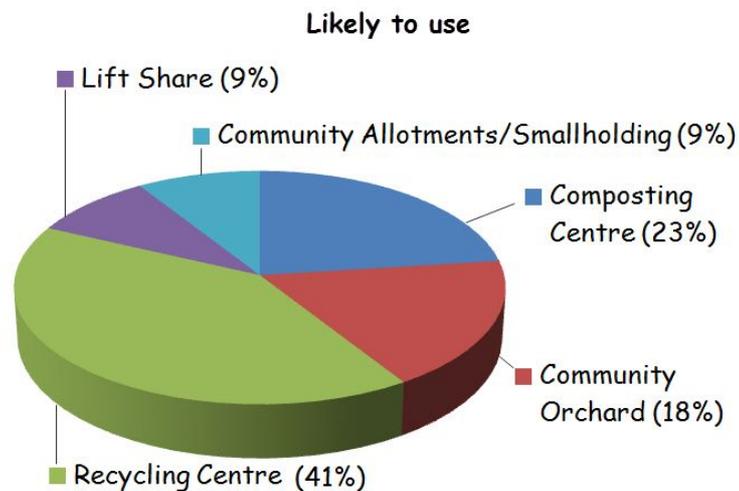
Following the Village Fete in 2010 Hankelow Amenities Group presents donations of £500 each to the RSPCA and Macmillan Cancer Support

Representatives from Hankelow Amenities Group present donations of £500 each to Audlem First Responders and the Motor Neurone Disease Association from money generated by Hankelow's 2009 village fete



# Sustainability

Various key issues were raised in the questionnaire. Question 12 asked respondents to tick which suggestion (to improve sustainability and lower the carbon footprint of the village) they would be most likely to use.



## Recycling Centre

Since the questionnaire was issued a new Local Authority operated recycling collection service has been put into place. This has extended the ability to recycle a number of items. In addition a clothes and shoe bin and a books and CD bin has been made available on the Hankelow Cottage car park. Audlem Online already has a second hand buy, sell and free to good home section on their website. From some of the comments made by villagers there is a need to promote this facility more widely within Hankelow.

**(Action SUS1- promote recycling facilities on website and newsletter.)**

## Composting Centre

There are two issues relating to composting - the first is that of disposal of garden waste. Facilities to compost garden waste are provided by the Local Authority through the Brown Bin scheme. There is no current provision for composting food waste within the village other than on an individual basis. The second issue is accessing compost if villagers do not have the facility to make it themselves. Some villagers do have their own compost facilities and may have a surplus supply of compost which would be made available to others via a compost share scheme. This could be facilitated via the Village newsletter and/or website.

**(Action SUS2 - advertise shared compost scheme on village website and newsletter.)**

## Community Orchard and Vegetable Share

The availability of land for a community orchard is limited. However it has been suggested, and agreed in principle, by the Parish Council that any replacement trees planted on the village green should be fruit trees for the benefit of the community. It could be a useful addition to the village newsletter and/or website for a section to allow villagers to offer surplus fruit and vegetables to other villagers.

**(Action SUS3- encourage surplus vegetable share on website and newsletter.)**

## **Allotments/Smallholding**

There is no public land available in the village which could be used for allotments, and from the questionnaire results demand for allotments is low (9%). One possible option could be the facilitation of a garden share scheme, where villagers with larger gardens could offer to share their land with other villagers in return for a share of produce grown. There is a National Garden Share model, whose principles could be followed should there be sufficient demand at a point in the future.

**(Action SUS4 - advertise on the village website and newsletter a garden share modelled on the National Garden Share Scheme.)**

## **Lift Sharing**

9% of villagers said they would use a lift share scheme. Whilst this is not a large percentage, lift sharing, even at a low level would have a positive impact on the environment. A lift sharing scheme is being proposed in nearby Audlem and it would be prudent to join in with this scheme if it becomes available.

**(Action SUS5 - discuss with the Audlem team investigating this issue and to join in the scheme if it is set in motion.)**

## **Energy**

This topic was not included in the questionnaire but has grown in interest since then and some verbatim comments mentioned it. Many of the properties in Hankelow, like many rural villages, are old and are difficult to keep warm and dry, as shown in the diagram, 'Households at risk of fuel poverty,' on page 21. The village does not have access to the national gas grid and is therefore largely dependent on fuel oil, LPG and coal, all of which have significantly increased in price over recent years. The combination of old, thermally inefficient housing stock and rising fuel prices places an increased financial burden on all householders, particularly retired residents, with implications for their health and standards of living as well as the wider issue of achieving national targets to reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption.

In order to consider the issue of reducing energy bills and the availability of alternative forms of energy it is proposed to host an event in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom that villagers can attend. Villagers with specialist knowledge of this issue have already volunteered to organise an event and provide advice.

**(Action SUS6 - organise an event in Hankelow for villagers interested in the subject.)**

ADAPT, the Audlem and District sustainability group are working in this area and again any work they do can be shared in Hankelow for the benefit of residents.

# History of Hankelow

## A thousand years of history

It may be that the origin of the name "Hankelow" derives from an old English reference to a local "Haneca's Mound". This links with the usual explanation of "low" as a place name suffix meaning a "rounded hill or burial ground". Whatever the derivation the parish name has had several different spellings.

Hankelow was part of the Barony of Wich Malbank (Nantwich) in 1086 and was owned by Richard de Vernon. By the reign of Edward 1<sup>st</sup>. in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the parish was owned by a family who took the local name of Hunkelowe. From 1307 (Edward 2<sup>nd</sup>) there are references to estates held in Honkelowe. By the time of Richard 2<sup>nd</sup> in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, a William of Hunkelowe was bailiff to the Hundred of Nantwich. These references indicate the various alternative spellings which persisted into the 19<sup>th</sup> century where they occur in the early census returns.

Among the most significant buildings in the parish is Ball Farm, Hankelow's oldest house built in 1510. In 1511, Richard Hassall lived there as Sergeant in Law and by 1540 he was Justice of Chester. It is probable that Ball Farm was used as a Court of Justice for the district and the two large spheres on the gate posts are an indication of its status. The records of the Court of Star Chamber include a reference to a drunken brawl in Hankelow in September 1540, however Hankelow's two former public houses were not involved.

The Greyhound (now The Grey House) was open in the 1770s but had closed by 1902. The White Lion (now the Hankelow Cottage restaurant) dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and was used for the inquest into the murder of George Morrey in 1812. George Morrey's farm is now the site of Hankelow Court, one of the most impressive houses in the parish. This house was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was empty for a time in the 1930s and was next used as a billet for army officers in the second world war. It is now in private ownership.

Hankelow Hall was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It had various owners and was divided into flats before becoming unoccupied and falling into disrepair in the 1980s. The current owner has embarked on an impressive and long term phase of restoration.



Source: © Elizabeth Goodwin 2012

## Hankelow Hall, January 2012

The first record of a Hall in Hankelow on this site dates from 1369 with evidence of a wattle and daub wall and timber frame being found during the current renovation. The present house dates from the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century and remodelled in 1755 by William Baker. The Hall is early Georgian in architectural style incorporating historical features including window frames dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and a Tudor staircase.

The Hall was neglected for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and abandoned following a fire in the 1960s. In 1989, the Hall was acquired by the current owners who, as the photograph shows, have made considerable progress in bringing the Hall and the surrounding parkland back to its former glory.

Hankelow's link with the industrial revolution is via Hankelow Mill. It was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and when it closed in 1940 it was the last remaining water powered mill in the area. A steam engine was installed in 1882 and was working until 1972; the building has been adapted as private housing.

Hankelow Church of England Primary School existed for 100 years. Initially as a school for children aged 5-11 it opened in 1870 and for 60 years or so the number of children on roll was around 50. In 1930 it became a 5-8 school and thereafter pupil numbers declined. Although it was later restored as a 5-11 school the number of children attending did not attain former levels and in the 1960s when school closure was first discussed numbers had fallen below 30. The school closed in July 1970 with 12 children on roll. The building was demolished in 1977.

The census graph on page 17 reflects the decline in rural settlements of the late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries and the gradual return of mainly older settlers who could afford to commute from or retire to the countryside following the 1970s. As a result Hankelow's current population is very similar numerically to the 1871 census which shows a population for the parish of 266 while the 2001 census records 272 people. What differs is that in 1871 there were 47 occupied households, by 2001 the number of houses had reached 100. The current population is approximately 290 (Office for National Statistics 2008) of whom 18% are aged under 15, almost exactly in line with the Cheshire average of 18.3%, however, people of pensionable age total 26.2%, a significantly larger proportion than that for Cheshire as a whole (21.4%). The ethnic profile shows an almost exclusively "white British" population.

The way Hankelow has evolved over the centuries is typical of many English villages which were originally agricultural settlements. The majority of such villages became established around a church or manor house. Farm work was communally based with common land used for grazing on a village green. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century the open field system that had supported the village had disappeared and farmhouses were built outside villages as open fields were divided into individual farms. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century villages like Hankelow which remained outside urban sprawl, served as a local centre with amenities which included a church, a pub, a smithy, a shop, a post office, a garage and a school; however, most of these services have now been lost to the village, with the possible exception of the pub, which in recent years has struggled to achieve a sustainable business and is currently an Indian restaurant and, although there is no public bar, a number of village events are hosted by the business.

Modern Hankelow has been transformed from its medieval origins to an attractive rural community where residents enjoy the relative peace and quiet of the countryside. For some it is a popular commuter village, for others a place to work in pleasant surroundings or a place to enjoy retirement.

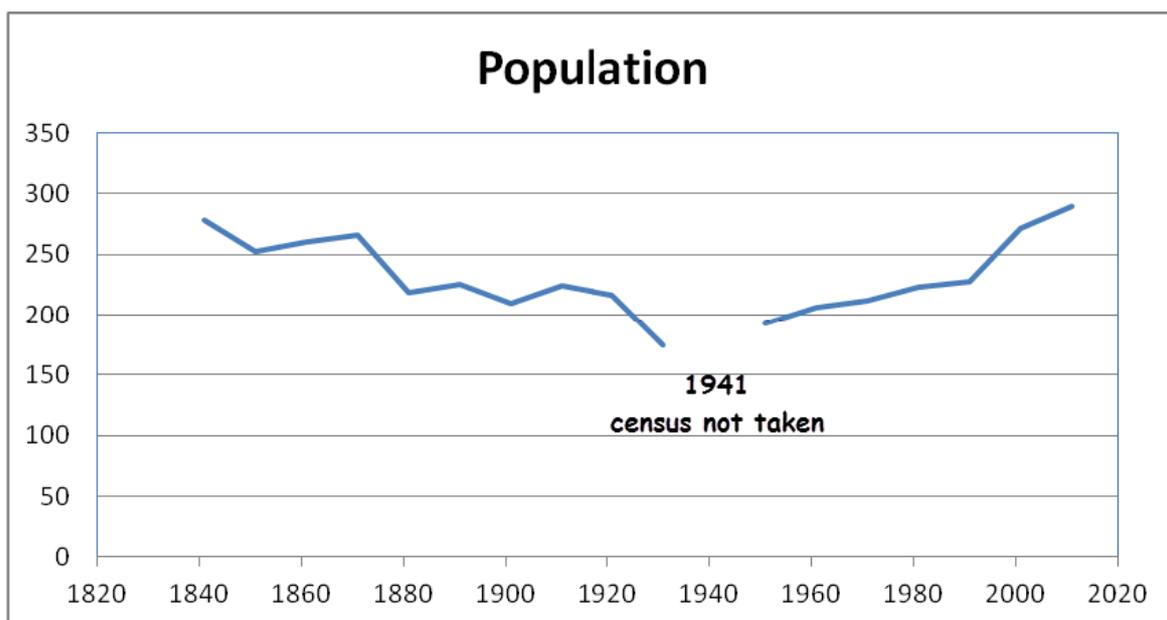
Car ownership in the parish is high with 56.9% of households owning two or more cars and only 4.9% with no car (source: ACRE Rural Evidence Project, January 2012, based on Census 2001). The nearest village with amenities, such as local shops, primary school and GP is Audlem, just over 1 mile (or 2.2 km to the South). Major services, for example secondary schools, hospital, major stores and public transport rail and coach services are 5 or more miles away and difficult or time consuming to reach by public transport, hence the high level of dependence on private transport that is increasingly vulnerable to fuel price rises.

The village green is the natural centre of Hankelow, highly valued and well used as a community amenity. Nearby is the main road junction in the village where Longhill Lane meets the A529. The main residential development is around the green and along the roads that radiate from it. The

housing type is predominantly detached (68.6%) which is higher than the Cheshire average of 35% and largely under owner occupation (87%). The level of social housing is low at less than 3% which compares with a Cheshire average of 14.5%. (figures derived from the 2001 census based on 100 houses). Fewer than 31% of houses in the parish are in the lower Council Tax Bands (Bands A - C), an indication of affordability, compared to 58.1% for Cheshire East and 66.2% for England (source: Valuation Office Agency, 2011). As mentioned, the housing stock is vulnerable to the rising cost of heating as properties tend to be both older and detached reducing their ability to retain heat. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) produces annual data which estimates that Hankelow may have 34.7% of houses estimated to be without central heating or in 'Fuel Poverty', currently defined as a household that needs to spend more than 10% of its income to keep the home heated to 21° C in the living room and 18°C in the rest of the house.

The main recreational provision is Brookfield Golf Course an 18 hole course opened 10 years ago, whose large Club House is used extensively as a restaurant and function centre for the area. The former White Lion public house is now a restaurant.

Of people aged between 16 and 74 in Hankelow 63% are economically active, below the Cheshire average of 68%. Apart from the small industrial estate off the A529 and in line with national trends there are more than a dozen home based businesses of which professional consultancies are a major element.

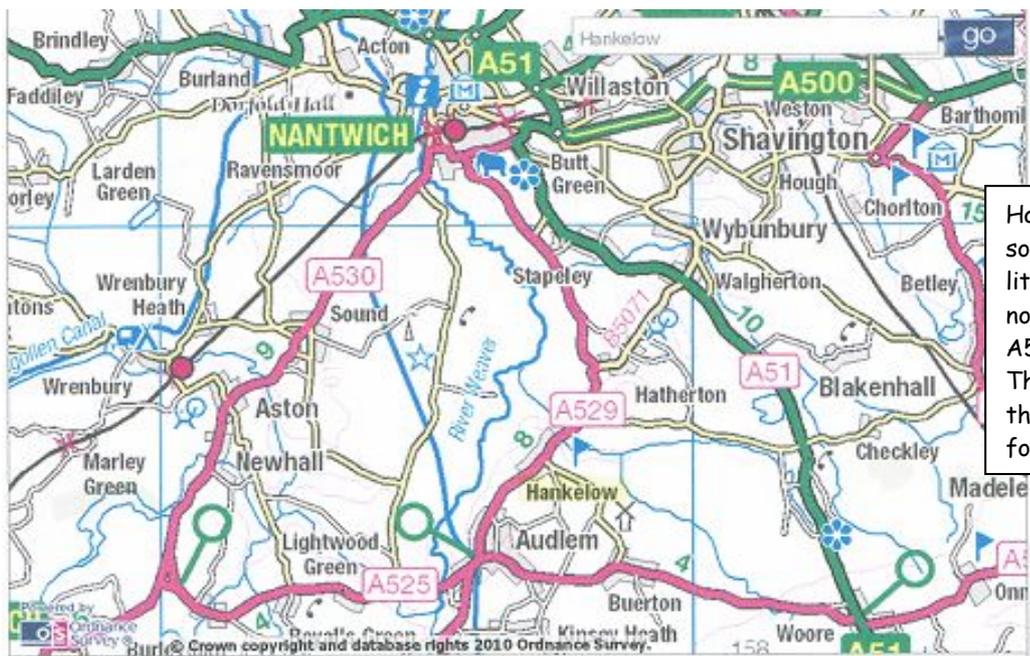


The population of Hankelow has mirrored the changing fortunes of village settlements from the late 19th Century when changing land use, industrialisation and labour markets resulting in a steady decline. The development of post war ability to commute relatively long distances combined with the changing perception of the attractiveness of country living led to the resurgence in population growth, boosted by the release of land for housing development in the late 1980s and 90s. In contrast to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century villagers, the modern population tends to be older, professional or retired with fewer children and far fewer residents per household than their forebears.

Source: Action for Communities in Rural England Rural Evidence Project. January 2012

# Maps and other information

## Location map

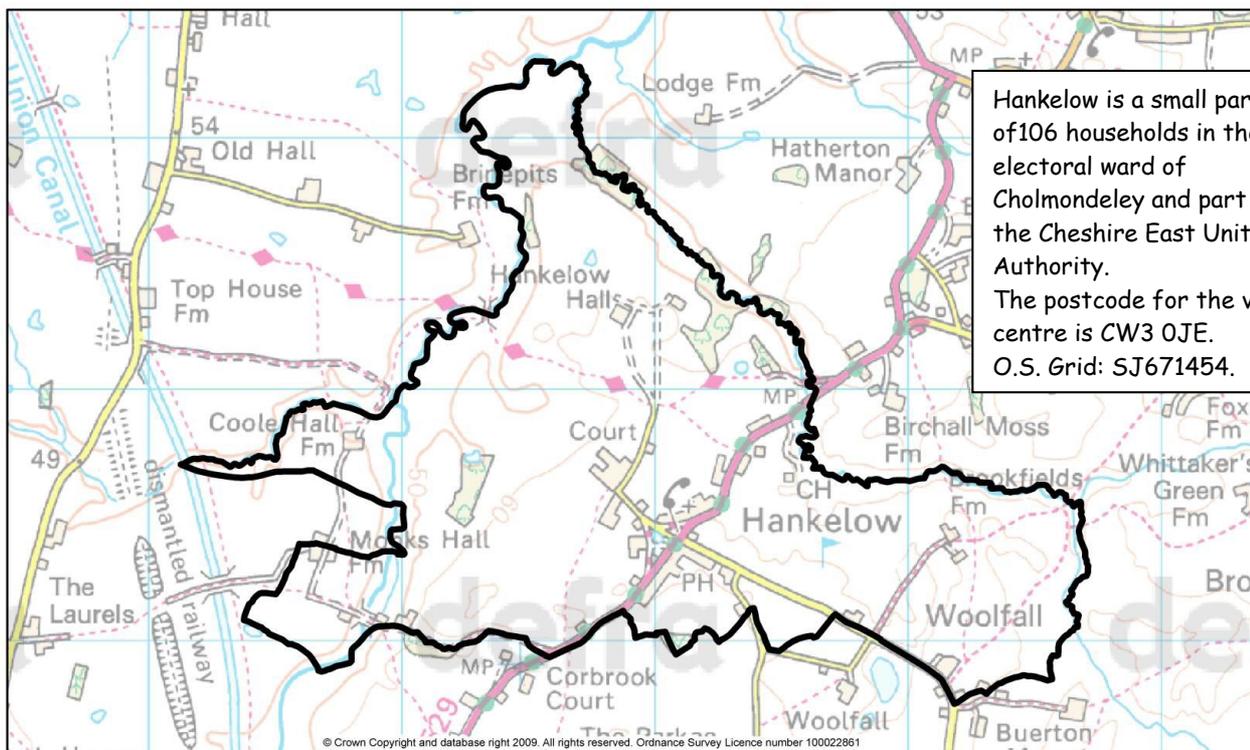


Hankelow is located to the south of Nantwich and lies a little over 2.2 km (1 mile) north of Audlem on the A529. The open countryside around the village is used primarily for dairy production.

Source: Crown Copyright. Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO . January 2012.

## Parish boundaries

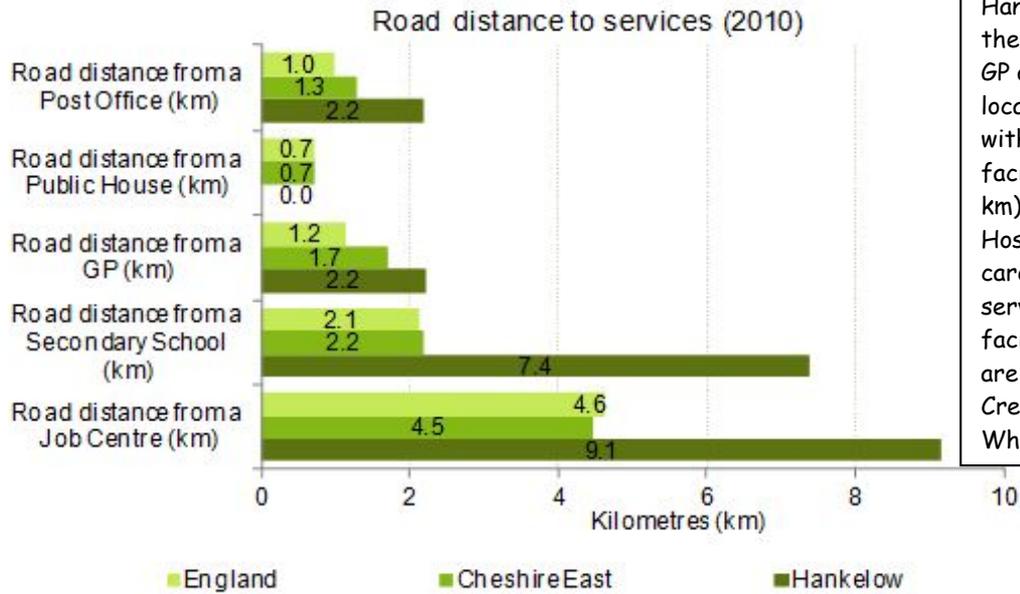
Hankelow Parish



Hankelow is a small parish of 106 households in the electoral ward of Cholmondeley and part of the Cheshire East Unitary Authority. The postcode for the village centre is CW3 0JE. O.S. Grid: SJ671454.

Source: 2001 Census Output Area Boundaries. Crown Copyright. Crown Copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. May 2010.

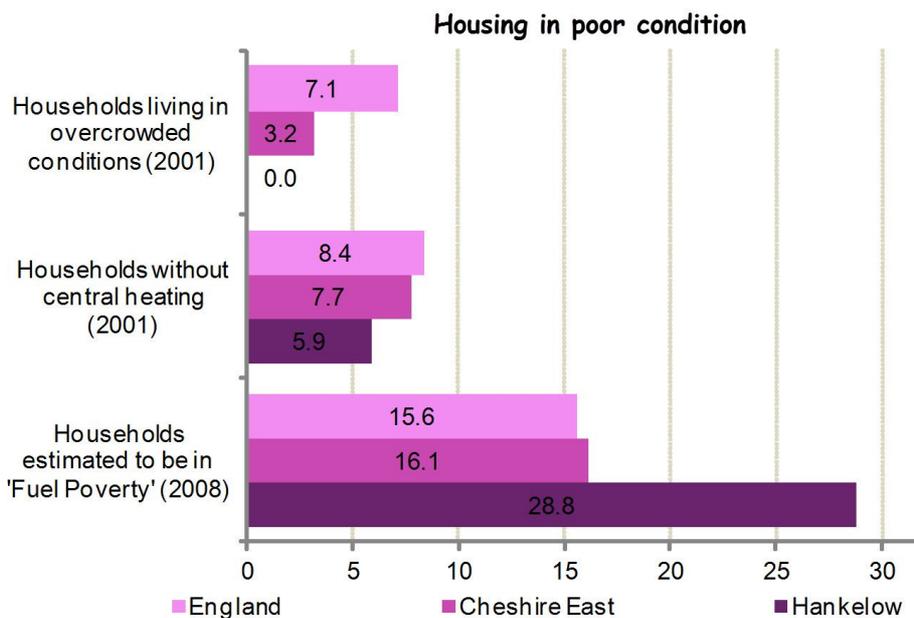
## Access to key services



The rural nature of Hankelow is illustrated by the distance to key services. GP and small shops are located in Audlem (2.2 km) with secondary education facilities in Nantwich (7.4 km). Hospitals and other health care facilities, key public services and larger retail facilities used by residents are located in Nantwich, Crewe, Market Drayton and Whitchurch.

Source: Action for Communities in Rural England Rural Evidence Project. January 2012.

## Households at risk of fuel poverty



Rural properties tend to be older, have poor heat retention and are expensive to keep warm. Many of these fail to achieve the 2006 government definition of 'decent' homes which indicates how effectively a home should use and retain heat. There are substantial numbers of non decent homes at all levels of income with much higher proportion in rural areas.

Rising fuel prices increase the number of households facing 'fuel poverty' where more than 10% of the household income is used to keep the home heated to 21°C in the living room and 18°C in the rest of the house.

Source: Action for Communities in Rural England Rural Evidence Project. January 2012

## Hankelow Parish Plan Action Plan

Theme: Transport and Roadside Footpaths									
Ref / Action No.	Key Issue	Specific actions to be taken	Project Lead Organisation	Completion and review dates	Measures of Success	Resources			
						Financial	In Kind	Key partners	✓
TF1	Speed Restriction (Designation)	Identify status of MHWP 356 Hankelow Speed Restriction with Lead Highway Engineer  Review proposed scheme for MHWP 356 and make recommendations.  Monitor implementation	C Ainley D Mounteney  Transport Group  Transport Group / Parish Council	December 2011  January 2012  February 2012	Confirmation that MHWP 356 under active consideration  Review evidence and proposal options  Review of impact of proposed scheme	N/A	Time	Cheshire East Council  Ringway Jacobs  Parish Council  Cheshire Police	
TF2	Speed Restriction (Interactive)	Review proposed scheme and placement options  Interactive sign option and cost appraisal  Identify sources of funding	C Ainley D Mounteney	February 2012	Development of affordable solution to support speed restriction	Local fund raising  Parish Council  Road safety grants	Time  Skill Training	Cheshire East Council  Ringway Jacobs  Cheshire Police  Hankelow community	

Theme: Transport and Roadside Footpaths (continued)									
Ref / Action No.	Key Issue	Specific actions to be taken	Project Lead Organisation	Completion and review dates	Measures of Success	Resources			
						Financial	In Kind	Key partners	✓
TF3	Mirror at Long Hill Lane Junction	Placement of safety mirror	C Ainley D Mounteney	<i>(on hold - subject to TF1?)</i>					
TF4	A529 Footpath to Audlem	Establish contact with Audlem Parish Council to ascertain support Contact Morris Care and arrange meeting	C Ainley	February 2012	Identify possible options to improve safe access using permissive path	Local Fund raising Parish Councils Morris Care	Time Skills	Morris Care Audlem Parish Council Hankelow Parish Council Cheshire East Council	
TF5	Roadside footpaths through village	Overgrown footpaths throughout village to be cleared  Community working groups to take responsibility	C Ainley	September 2011  March 2012	Cheshire East Council cleared footpaths Sept 2011 <i>(Complete)</i>  Working Teams to clear	N/A	Time	N/A	

Theme: Information and Communications									
Ref / Action No.	Key Issue	Specific actions to be taken	Project Lead Organisation	Completion and review dates	Measures of Success	Resources			
						Financial	In Kind	Key partners	✓
IC 1	Newsletter	Contact Charlie Foster to see what help, if any, he wants	J Meadows	December 2011	Continuation of newsletter	none	none	Charlie Foster	
IC 2	Distribute Audlem newsletter in Hankelow	Recruit distributors	J Meadows	March 2012	Continuation of newsletter distribution	none	Community activity		
IC 3	www.Hankelow.net Website	Ask Audlem web team to put in a link to the Hankelow website	J Meadows	February 2012	Link on Audlem Website	none	none	Audlem Webteam	✓
IC 4	Parish Council communication with villagers	Communicate with Parish Council clerk/chair	J Meadows	February 2012	Informal précis of council minutes in the village newsletter	none	none	Parish Council chair/clerk and Charlie Foster	
IC5	Village business directory on paper	Compile, print and distribute		June 2012	Distribution and use of directory	Printing costs	Community distribution		

Theme: Sustainability									
Ref / Action No.	Key Issue	Specific actions to be taken	Project Lead Organisation	Completion and review dates	Measures of Success	Resources			
						Financial	In Kind	Key partners	✓
SUS 1	Audlem Buy/sell website promotion	Put link from Hankelow website To Audlem website Put details in Hankelow newsletter	C Foster A Draper	December 2011	Included on website Included in newsletter Usage by villagers	N/A	Time	N/A	
				April 2012		N/A	Time	N/A	
SUS 2	Surplus compost share	Article to be put on website & newsletter	C Foster A Draper	April 2012	Included on web & newsletter Usage by villagers	N/A	Time	N/A	
SUS 3	Surplus plants/fruit/ veg share	Article to be put on website & newsletter	C Foster A Draper	April 2012	Included on web & newsletter Usage by villagers	N/A	Time	N/A	
SUS 4	Garden share	Determine interest via article in newsletter Investigate national Garden share scheme	A Draper	April 2012	Scheme in operation	N/A	Time	National Garden share scheme	
SUS 5	Lift sharing scheme	Discuss with Audlem team Advertise when available	A Draper	June 2012	Scheme in operation				
SUS 6	Energy saving event	Organise event	A Draper/ C Ainley	June 2012	Event organised Adoption of ideas by villagers	Yes, hire of hall, set up costs	Time	Adapt Energy saving trust	

Theme: Recreation and Leisure									
Ref / Action No.	Key Issue	Specific actions to be taken	Project Lead Organisation	Completion and review dates	Measures of Success	Resources			
						Financial	In Kind	Key partners	✓
RL1	Protection and upkeep of the village green		Parish Council	Ongoing	That the green continues to be an amenity for all to enjoy				
RL2	Planting of fruit-trees	When trees on the green are diseased and need to be removed, replace with fruit or walnut trees	Parish Council	Ongoing	That there are some fruit trees growing round the green	Cost of fruit trees		Kirk Shenton	
RL3	Nature reserve	Consider suitable sites. Discuss requirements.	Gin Foster Alan Davenport	September 2012	That a suitable area has been identified and made available		Time		
RL4	Recreational development	Creation of a Golf Society	A Lee	May 2012	Membership of 16 from the village	none	Admin.	None	



A winter view of Hankelow Cottage Indian Restaurant from the green.

## What happens next?

It is important to ensure that this Plan is widely circulated, not only to local residents and those who have contributed to its production, but also to those organisations who are referred to in the Plan and who will be involved in the implementation and review phase.

It will be necessary to establish an Implementation and Review Group to take the Action Plan projects forward. This group may choose to recruit new volunteers to establish teams to review progress and prioritise action in order to bring the projects to completion. This new group will also need to explore potential funding sources.

The group will need to consider how the Plan's status and proposals are related to developments in the wider sphere of planning policy and local community involvement as contained within the provisions of the Localism Bill, neighbourhood planning and Cheshire East Council's Local Development Framework.

If you would like to join the Implementation and Review Group then please register your interest with any member of the current Steering Group (page 4).

### **Hankelow School Bell**

The last question in our questionnaire related to the bell which hung in the now demolished Hankelow School. This bell has recently been returned to Hankelow and parishioners were asked where they thought it should be kept. Many people thought that Hankelow chapel would be an appropriate place for it, and the Methodist Church Council have kindly agreed to have it on display in the Chapel porch.

