

CALVELEY COMMUNITY PLAN



September 2014

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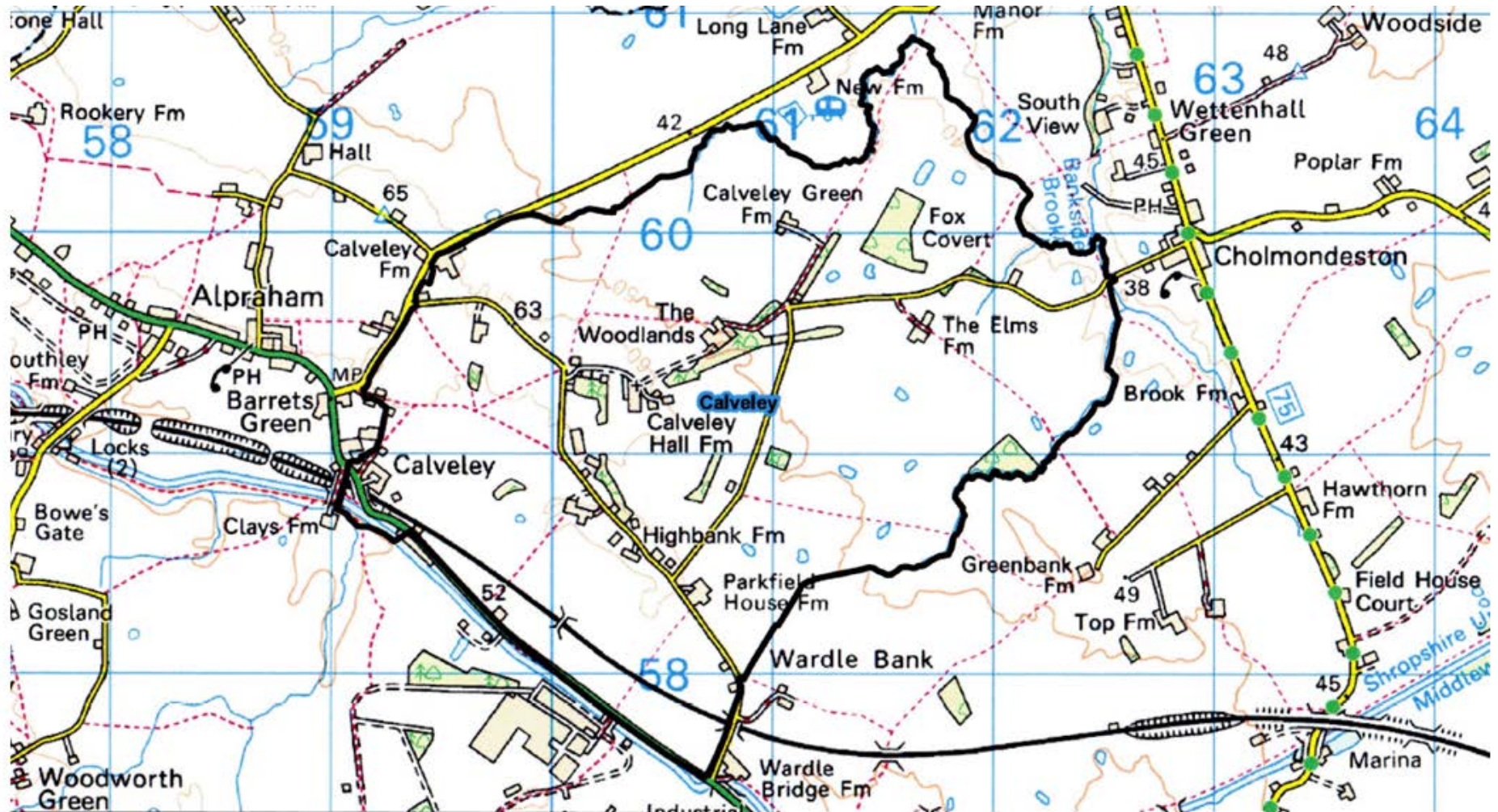


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THE PARISH OF CALVELEY





INTRODUCTION

The Calveley Community Plan (hereafter called the Plan) is a document which has been developed from the views and responses supplied by the people living in and close by the parish of Calveley. It will be lodged with Cheshire East Council who are required to consider the contents before any decisions relating to the parish are made.

The Working Group is grateful to those who completed the questionnaires and supplied the information which has enabled the development of the Plan. The 75% response rate for the second questionnaire, which was issued following Alpraham and Calveley's decision not to continue with a Joint Parish Plan, confirms the collective desire for the creation of a Plan for our community.

To understand the importance of a Plan it is easier to say what might happen without one. The absence of a Plan sends a message to Cheshire East Council that the local community is not concerned about what happens in their neighbourhood and means there is nothing in place to prevent unwelcome development.

Having a Plan says that the Community is concerned about the services provided and the state of the local environment. When it is informed by such a very strong response there can be no dispute about what is and is not welcome in the area. The importance of a strong Community Plan was highlighted recently when a nearby Cheshire village won its case in the High Court against two national house building companies who tried to override the wishes of the local people. It also serves to express what the Community feels is lacking in the area and where support may be sought from outside the Community.

The current members of the Working Group are Martin Gregory, Joy Greenway, Ann Waterhouse, Chris Konieczny, Penny Holding, Jo Kenwright and Roger Dawson.

The Working Group welcomes any comments about the Plan or offers of help with any of the objectives. The Working Group will be only too pleased to answer any queries to do with the Plan and its formation.



The principles of the Working Group's Constitution are:

- (a) To improve the quality of life for all people who live and work in Calveley through the development of a stronger community spirit, greater cohesion and more visible pride in the village environment.
- (b) To develop a safer and more secure environment for all villagers, with particular regard to highway safety.
- (c) To maintain and protect the character, amenity value and environmental assets of the village.
- (d) To support the sequential approach to land available for housing development.

Councillor Michael Jones, the Ward Councillor for Bunbury Ward, and the Parish Council have approved the development of the Plan and will continue to assist where appropriate.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This plan has been drawn up by the Calveley Community Plan Working Group which was formed following a series of public meetings in 2012. The Working Group is comprised of local people from varied backgrounds but with the sole objective of creating a plan that reflects the wishes of the people from the Calveley Community.

It was originally intended to work with the people of Alraham to produce a joint plan, but in August 2013 Alraham Parish Council decided that they would like to compile their own plan for Alraham.

The area covered by the plan goes slightly beyond the boundaries of Calveley Parish and includes households which would be closely affected by The Plan. Information identifying the issues important to local people has been obtained via two detailed questionnaires. These were hand delivered to every household in the community in October 2012 and December 2013. Information received from the first questionnaire was used to compile the second and more detailed one. 93% of households returned the first Questionnaire and 75% the second. This underlines the importance placed on the process by the Community.

The information from the questionnaires has been analysed by the working group and has been used to produce The Action Plan (see page 21).

The principle messages from the community are that they:

- Would like to have a discernible village centre.
- Would like this to include a village shop or similar amenities.
- Wish to maintain the rural character of the Community and want to improve what is already there.
- Have serious concerns regarding the ever increasing volume of traffic on the A51 and on the back lanes and the negative impact that this is having on everyone.
- Expect to see only very limited house building in the community in the future.
- Are not happy with communications in the community.
- Would be very supportive of a “good neighbour scheme”.
- Would support longer term infrastructure improvements – such as a by-pass and the reopening of Calveley Railway Station.



The Working Group is now focusing on the wishes of the community and is committed to bring about the changes and improvements that have been highlighted. This will require working closely with the Parish Council and Cheshire East Council who have both been very supportive of this process.

The compilation of the plan is not the end of the story. It is intended that this is a “live document” and that actions and circumstances will be regularly reviewed to allow the continuing wishes of the community to be progressed, if at all possible, and changing circumstances taken into consideration.





HISTORY OF CALVELEY

The name Calveley is of Anglo Saxon origin. Calveley was part of Mercia and the lord of the manor was Morkar who lived at Acton (Actune). He was brother to Edwin the last lord of Mercia.

There are no Roman remains in the area but it was traversed by Watling Street (or Pavement) which has developed into the A51.

The name is recorded as Kalverle (1216) Calueleg (1287) and Calveley (1235). After this it becomes Calveley which means 'pasture for calves'.



Sir Hugh Calveley

Between 1341 to 1364 land in the area of Calveley was bestowed upon Sir Hugh de Calveley. He was 7 feet tall and had the nickname The Frenchman as he commanded the free-lancers in the wars in Brittany 1341-1346 and joined with the Black Prince in 1367.

He became Prince of Aquitaine and Governor of the Channel Islands and there is a statue of him at Mont Orgueil Castle on the island of Jersey. He founded and endowed a college at Bunbury Church as the church is located on the Two Saints Way which lies between the cathedrals of Chester and Lichfield. His tomb is located in Bunbury Church.

The date of the building of Calveley Hall is unknown, however, it was first demolished before 1800 and subsequently rebuilt soon after. The occupiers of the hall were the Calveley family and it transferred to the Davenports by marriage.



Calveley Hall



Calveley Hall was used during both World Wars. In WW1 it was used, with the church, as a hospital and in WW2 the family moved out so it could be used to house evacuees. The Calveley Community made these people welcome by supplying much needed clothes and furniture. The hall suffered severely from dry rot and was mostly demolished in 1951.

Calveley Hall Chapel



In the early 1900's the owner was Major John Julius Jersey de Knoop JP and family. Calveley Hall Chapel was licensed in 1839 and in 1911 Mrs de Knoop refurbished Calveley Hall Chapel, which had originally been a tithe barn built in the middle of the 17th Century, by adding a vestry from a converted coach house. The most recent owners were the Midwood family who held a fete every summer.

As the Hall had been demolished, the congregation bought the Chapel for local use in 1952.



Calveley School



Calveley School was built in 1874 by Mr Hitchen. The school was built first followed by the school house. The first headmaster was Mr William Gore who originated from Knowsley. When the school first opened the farmers sent their sons, some of whom were eighteen and only a little younger than Mr Gore (who was just 21).

The Reading Room

Founded in 1891 by Herbert Peel of Calveley Hall on land supplied by the Tollemache estate, the Alpraham and Calveley Reading Room was given, complete with a supply of books, to the male inhabitants of Calveley and Alpraham and neighbourhood. The Reading Room was vested to the Trustees in 1895.

It was to be a place where they ‘may spend their leisure time pleasantly and intellectually and a suitable place for meetings and entertainments’. On old tithe maps it is recorded as a Library.

The books have long since gone and The Reading Room, although still in use, is showing its age.





Over the last century and a half Calveley has changed considerably since the following observation was penned around 1870:

“A little farther lies Calvely, long the property of that illustrious family, now likewise lost. My road lay along the low unpleasant lane that led towards Nantwich; the prospect frequently deformed by the great fosses of the unfortunate canal, falling in on each side of the road; for it crosses at Barbridge, and is finished from thence to Nantwich.” This refers to the A51!



The Vernwy Reservoir was completed in 1890 and the water was piped to Liverpool. The aqueduct passed under the A51 near Four Lane Ends close to Tarporley. The law stated that water had to be supplied to any district through which the aqueduct passed which meant that Calveley has been supplied with piped water since 1890's.

The title map of 1851 shows the area of Calveley to be mostly agricultural. The main landowner is stated to be 'Guardians of A H Davenport' whose tenants had the surnames of Foster, Welch, Trickett, Walpole, Tomlinson, Major, Lakeland, Bourne and Plumbley.

Other landowners along the Nantwich Road (A51) were Craven, Vickers and Bowen who owned the public house and the surrounding land. By 1875 the Davenport Arms is clearly marked as is the front line of Masons Row. In more recent times the landlord was Bob Hutchinson who was a boxer who kept all his cups on display in the pub.





Calveley Railway Station was opened to passengers in 1840 after the Irish Mail contract was transferred to the railway in 1839.

The Shropshire Union Canal was built in 3 stages. The section from Chester to Nantwich was built in the 1770's, and almost failed commercially until the Llangollen Canal, which was started in 1793,

was connected at Hurlston. The whole canal runs from Wolverhampton to Ellesmere Port. The section from Barbridge to Middlewich was completed by 1833 and the last section to be completed was from Nantwich to Autherley Junction, Nr Wolverhampton in 1835.



The map shows a sawmill at which it is understood silk bobbins were made from the withies growing around the River Gowy. These were transported to Macclesfield, the centre of the silk weaving industry, initially by road and later by canal barge.

The sawmill and coal yard were situated beside the canal and the railway as was the coal yard with both transferring their wares between the railway and the canal. The sawmill closed and was taken over by United Dairies which collected milk from the farms of Cheshire and prepared it prior to transportation all over the UK by rail. Many of the locals were employed at the dairies and ultimately there were at least 20 lorry drivers in addition to the dairy and laboratory staff.





Calveley had its moment of glory when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited the station and Calveley Hall Chapel in 1947.

Many people will remember the always cheerful Assistant Station Master Lance Ledwards. With his assistance the local children were allowed to go and ride on the footplates of the railway engines whilst in the dairy sidings. Every boy's dream! The dairy closed in 1965 and the station closed to passengers in 1960 with goods traffic continuing until 1964.

In the 1970's the signal box at Calveley was operated by the first female signaller in the UK, Mrs Violet Latham. The signal box was demolished in the early 80's. The canal is still much in use for pleasure craft aided by the water and waste facilities which are available at Calveley.

In the 1930s and 40s Calveley was a thriving community with a blacksmith working from the smithy at Barrets Green called Mr Cyril Welch and a general store was located at Ivy House. Calveley also had a saddler named Tom Smith and there was a butchery on Station Road. The houses known as Southview and Northview were formerly The Railway Inn which received its licence in 1865.

In 1894 The Railway Inn was run by Hugh Challinor who was also a blacksmith. According to the newspapers of the time it was a small beer house with a smithy attached in which Hugh shod horses. It was a den of thieves and poachers and contributed to the downfall of a "young clean living " and there was trouble with tramps and also a barge woman with a melodeon (a type of accordion)!!

The decision to build RAF Calveley, now called Wardle Airfield, was taken in December 1940 and was built by Peter Lind Ltd between 1941 and 1942. It was to be one of a number of airfields intended to boost the fighter defence of Merseyside and had three concrete runways of between 1,000 m and 1,300 m. by the time the airfield was completed, however, the need for fighter defences for the North-West of England had declined, so by March 1942 it was used for training, with the station opening as a Relief Landing Ground for No. 5 Service Training Flying School (SFTS) based at RAF Ternhill in Shropshire. Calveley was the only one of Ternhill's satellites to have hard runways.

In May 1943 RAF Calveley became the main base for RAF No. 17 (P)AFU (Advanced Flying Unit), equipped with 174 Miles Master trainers, which moved from RAF Watton in Norfolk. To accommodate the unit's large number of aircraft, RAF Wrexham (Borras) served as a satellite airfield. The last known visitor to the airfield was in the early 1950's when a Spitfire was forced to land due to engine failure.