To take MOORE forward by protecting its heritage,
by celebrating the present and by planning for the future.
MOORE PARISH PLAN
INTRODUCTION

Winter sunrise over Moore

Moore Village Parish Plan Steering Committee

Jan MacDonald (Chair)       Janet Johnston (Secretary)       Albert Beckett(Treasurer)
Graham Allen             Elaine Ashberry               Graham Gould
Sylvia Leitch           John McAlpine                Gill Pomfret
Steven Priestner         Doug Ross                  Kim Skovgaard
Jenny Tuckwell.

Acknowledgements       Our thanks to Albert Beckett for his photography and Kim Skovgaard for
                        his artwork
WHAT ARE PARISH PLANS?

Parish Plans are action plans developed by local communities. They set out a vision for the future of the community and list what actions will need to take place to achieve this.

WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED?

A while ago a community meeting was held in the Milner Institute, attended by residents from the parishes of Moore, Daresbury and Preston Brook. At this meeting a representative from the Countryside Agency explained the idea of having a Parish Plan. Subsequently a working group was set up in Moore that put together a bid which was successful in gaining a grant to begin the Parish Plan process. The Parish Council then set up a steering committee to ascertain what residents wanted for the future of their village. This was made up of people from all areas of village life, not just Parish Councillors, who have met regularly during recent months.

Information was collected on A Parish Plan Day held in June and from a questionnaire sent to every household.

The project has been made possible as a result of a grant from the Countryside Agency. It could not have happened without the support of the majority of village residents and the timely completion of their questionnaires together with well considered comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We have now finalised our plan, which is produced in this document. The Parish Plan lays down achievable goals for the future development of the village.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the groups and individuals who have given a considerable amount of time to make this plan possible.

The way is now paved to make the vision for Moore’s future a reality. We hope you will work with the Parish Council and their working parties to enable this to happen.

OUR VISION

To take MOORE forward by protecting its heritage, by celebrating the present and by planning for the future.

OUR CHANGING VILLAGE

Moore is a small village and all its residents seem to wish it to stay that way. Exactly when it became a village is not possible to say but it was several hundred years ago as
can be seen both by the village patterning and in the form and style of its oldest buildings. (1) The village has, technically, an irregular mature agglomerated plan (2), modified by the late 18th century Bridgewater Canal, the alignments of the two railway lines, that, in the 19th century were cut through its core area and, at the end of that century, the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal. Each of these had some influence on the layout of the village and there were benefits as well as disadvantages, the former including the convenience of having railway stations within the village, no doubt greatly appreciated in Victorian times.

All these factors contribute to the character of the village and make it, arguably, the most interesting of the four villages within the Halton authority.

There is, of course, nothing more interesting in a village than its villagers and although most of those who now reside in Moore may not look like traditional ‘villagers’ and few are employed within the parish, they nevertheless take pride in the place, enjoy the environment that it provides and involve themselves in the numerous village activities, including those organised by clubs, societies and the Parish Church (located up the hill in the sister village of Daresbury) The Methodist church in Moore, unfortunately, after almost 200 years, recently closed and the future of its building is a matter of concern for the village.

The village buildings sit well together and vary in size and character, most especially in the Conservation Area (see page 7) Small houses sit tightly together, larger ones are generally more widely separated, but the numerous village trees compliment the buildings handsomely and unify the central portions. Trees shrubs, hedges, fences and walls all serve to modify the views within the village and from the village lanes so that Moore can be seen to offer a remarkable range of impressions, ranging from those that are striking, handsome and unusual, to ones that may seem less pleasing to the eye.

(1) Older parts of the village can be seen to offer a ‘collage of time’—see Kevin Lynch What Time is This Place? MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass 1972; Thomas Sharpe’s classic study of English villages The Anatomy of the Village Penguin 1946 and Gillian Darley’s Villages of Vision Granada 1978

Moore Meadows is a fine addition to the village, with attractive pathways and separate ways for horse riding, as well as areas for wildlife, and as it adjoins the village school it also provides an educationally valuable nature-study area. It has something of a village-green character too.

Traditional farming activities are now on a reduced scale and offer occupation to only a few individuals but some of the village fields do not look very different than they did
twenty or thirty years ago. Tractors of various types, and other farm machines can still be seen working in the fields, or being driven along the lanes. Riding-horses and Shires are a welcome sight in the village and call for slower and much more careful driving than some drivers seem to be aware.

Samuel Bagshaw, in his 1850 Gazateer, stated that: ‘Moore or Moor is a township and small, compact village with some good residences, 3 ½ miles from Warrington. The township contains 901 acres of land, and in 1841 had 58 houses and 317 inhabitants.’

One hundred years later it had not changed a lot. An Ordnance Survey map of that time indicated that it was a compact, relatively small village, well separated from built up areas of Warrington, Runcorn and Widnes. It was within an area that looked very rural, where all roads were relatively narrow, with few straight sections. The village was a still largely farming community.

A few years later, New Town expansions of Runcorn to the west and Warrington to the north-east, began to change the rural nature of Moore’s wider setting, while New Town authorities chose largely to ignore the fact that the two towns were so close that they almost joined.

In 1974, when a major re-organisation of local government was brought into effect, the Runcorn District Council, then the local authority, ceased to exist and Moore was included in the area for which Halton Borough became responsible. In the 1990s Halton increased its responsibilities as it became a Unitary Authority, separated from Cheshire. (Warrington is also now a Unitary Authority)

During the last few years the land to the west of the village has been developed with such constructions as one of the largest distribution centres in Europe. Many would say this has adversely affected the village by causing visual intrusion as well as light and noise pollution. The building is soon to be joined by another of equal size.
Fortunately it seems that Halton now fully accepts that the area known as Manor Park 4, the open land between these developments and the village, will be left undisturbed, serving as both a very necessary floodplain and an area for wildlife.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The following data was taken from the 2001 census. At the time there were 813 people residing in the village. With little new building, the population has not changed a great deal over the past few years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age band</th>
<th>Number of inhabitants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>208</td>
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THE CONSERVATION AREA
Listed buildings and bridges

1. Moore Lane Bridge, Moore Lane – 1894
2. Roselea and Briardene, Moss Lane – late 18th century
3. Old Primary School, Moss Lane – 1878
4. Moore Hall, Hobb Lane – early 18th century
5. Moore Bridge, Hobb Lane – 1772
6. No. 106 Runcorn Road, Ivy Cottage – mid 18th century
7. Nos 110 and 112 Runcorn Road, Old Hall Farm Cottages – 1758
8. Nos 1 and 2 Old Hall farmhouse (formerly 114 Runcorn Road) – early 18th century
9. No 128 Runcorn Road, Village Farm House – late 17th century
10. Gate piers, gate and side walls to Village Farm House – gate piers 19th century
11. No 129 Runcorn Road, Manor Farm -1660
12. Red Lion Public House, Runcorn Road – late 17th century
13. No 109 Runcorn Road, The Pebbles – mid 18th century

WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR VILLAGE?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Contact numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moore pre school nursery</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Chairman -Steve Parry</td>
<td>01928 571322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiggy – out of school care</td>
<td>Rugby Club</td>
<td>Lesley New</td>
<td>07971607619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moore Primary School P.T.A.</td>
<td>Moore Primary School</td>
<td></td>
<td>01925 740326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbows</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Sue Randles</td>
<td>01928571350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownies</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Julie Priestner</td>
<td>01925 740617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beavers</td>
<td>Scout HQ Moss Lane</td>
<td>Rebecca Burton</td>
<td>01925 740854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cubs</td>
<td>Scout HQ Moss Lane</td>
<td>Diane Lewis</td>
<td>01928 579146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scouts</td>
<td>Scout HQ Moss Lane</td>
<td>Andy Burton</td>
<td>01925 740854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>Scout HQ Moss Lane</td>
<td>Alan Thomason</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl of Stamford Morris Dancers</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Lyn and Alan Goodkin</td>
<td>01925 740231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whist Club</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Wednesday evenings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W.I</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Sylvia Leitch</td>
<td>01925 740869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep Fit</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Kate Potts</td>
<td>01925 263799</td>
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<td>Over 60s Club</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Jean Davenport Wed afternoons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probus Club</td>
<td>Rugby Club/Red Lion</td>
<td>Wednesday am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilates</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Monday evening 6.30-9</td>
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<td>Promenade Park Residents Association</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Fiona Perthon</td>
<td>01925 740595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gentlemen of Moore Rugby Club</td>
<td>Rugby Club</td>
<td></td>
<td>01925 740473</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moore Football Club</td>
<td>Football Ground</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Bowls</td>
<td>Rugby Club</td>
<td>Tuesday evening 01925 740954</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heritage Group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lillian Morris</td>
<td>01925 632670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milner Institute Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore Parish Council</td>
<td>Scout HQ Moss lane</td>
<td>Clerk – Kate Fitch</td>
<td>01925 740515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Egg Club</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>One Saturday each month</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moore or Less Card Club</td>
<td>Scout HQ Moss Lane</td>
<td>Kate Fitch</td>
<td>01925 740515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crochet</td>
<td>Milner Institute</td>
<td>Thursday Mrs J Jones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details are correct when going to press.
It is possible that we have not been informed about other groups which meet in the village.
Hopefully this information, with updates, will become available on the website in the future.
### MOORE VILLAGE PARISH PLAN
#### Results of Questionnaire on COMMUNICATION

**Question 1**
Are you aware of events taking place in the village?
- Yes  92%
- No    7%
- Undecided   1%

**Question 2**
Would a village web site be of use for village information ?
- Yes  65%
- No  23%
- Undecided 12%

**Question 3**
Do you have any suggestions for improving communication in the village ?

55% of respondents made suggestions, which fell into the following categories:

**Notice Boards** (20 respondents suggested additional notice boards)
- a) Village Shop / Post Office
- b) Adjacent to Moore Primary School
- c) Western end of Village Runcorn Road / Six Acre Lane
- d) Promenade Park

**Newsletter** (19 preferred a newsletter delivered to all houses in the Village)
Ideas for improvement
- a) Contributions by residents
- b) Village groups to use for notification of events and dates
- c) Inclusion of news articles relevant to the Moore
- d) Invite group leaders to Parish Council meetings via newsletter

**Web Site**
Despite 72 positive responses to a web site in Question 2, only 5 respondents referred to it in this section, 1 volunteered to help in the setting up of a web site

**Village Meetings**
It was felt by some that regular Community meetings should be held, to ask questions and discuss local matters. This could be used as a forum for Local & District Councillors and other speakers to discuss village affairs
MOORE VILLAGE PARISH PLAN
Results of Questionnaire on SERVICES

**Question 4**
Do you think the village is well policed?
- Yes: 16%
- No: 71%
- Undecided: 13%

75% of all replies would welcome a more regular, and visible police presence, many claim never to have seen a police patrol for several years.

**Question 5**
Do you use public transport?
- Yes: 45%
- No: 47%
- Undecided: 8%

36% of all replies would like a more convenient bus service, with later evening buses and cheaper fares.

**Question 6**
Would you support a campaign to open the Railway Station?
- Yes: 82%
- No: 12%
- Undecided: 6%

23% were enthusiastically in favour of the reopening of Railway Station, and thought it would be a great asset, but some were unsure as to which station. 10% expressed concern about additional traffic and parking in the village.

**Question 7**
Do you use the Mobile Library?
- Yes: 17%
- No: 83%

45% of all replies were unaware of the times and the location of the Mobile Library visits, and thought that evening or weekend visits would encourage more use of the facility.

**Other suggestions on SERVICES**
- Improved Public Transport with more frequent and later services
- Recycling centre for bottle, cans and plastic
- Mobile shop for fresh meat, fish and vegetables
- Floral displays and better street/drain cleaning and weeding
- Surgery or pharmacy
- Disabled access on the pavements
- School Traffic Warden
- Use of Methodist Church as Library/Surgery/Pharmacy
- Railway bridges need maintenance and restoration
- Moss Lane sewage system and Moss Lane resurfacing
- Cutting back of overhanging trees which obscure road signs
MOORE VILLAGE PARISH PLAN
Results of Questionnaire on ENVIRONMENT

Question 8
Are there traffic / parking problems to be addressed?
Yes  88%
No   12%

35 returns referred to Lindfield Close and Runcorn Road at school times
12 thought that parking on Runcorn Road adjacent to Milner Institute was a problem
9 mentioned parking problems at the Post Office
8 suggested cars to be parked on the householder’s property
4 suggested use of the Red Lion car park
4 thought the school should have a car park
4 wanted a higher police presence to deal with speed limit and parking problems
3 were for a 30mph speed limit on Moore Lane
2 said that Moss Lane and Hobb Lane be closed to HGV's

Question 9
How could the visual appearance of the village be improved?

33 felt that Halton Borough Council should deal more effectively with cleaning gutters, general litter, dog fouling, weeding and drain cleaning.
27 thought that planters and hanging baskets would improve the appearance, and that the planting of daffodils in Runcorn Road could be extended to other communal grassed areas and verges.
Problem areas are the canal hedge near the shop, railway bridge ‘S’ Bend, and other unused land.
18 suggested more seats especially near bus stops, and 7 would like ‘Victorian’ style street lights.
5 would like to see signs cleaned and repaired, 3 thought fewer signs would be an improvement.

Question 10
Would you like to see the Conservation Area extended?
Yes  88%
No   3 %
Don't Know  9%

Question 11
Do you visit the Nature Reserve?
Yes  89%
No  11%

Question 12
Do you have issues with public footpaths?
Yes  32%

Many suggestions and criticisms were made on this subject. The most significant was the repair of footpaths on Runcorn Road, the resurfacing of Moss Lane, and the provision of footpaths on Moss Lane and Moore Lane. The section of Moss Lane off Runcorn Road is particularly busy at certain times of the day, with traffic going to the Milner Institute, the Rugby Club, Shades of Green and Grace Landscapes. There is also farm traffic and access for railway contractors to the West Coast Main Line. Moss Lane is hardly wide enough for 2 vehicles to pass in places, and there is hardly any footpath provision.
Moore Lane is extremely busy with HGV's, which makes it hazardous for pedestrians.
Field paths are not well defined and a Moore Village footpath map would be of use.
Other criticisms of footpaths were overgrown hedges and overhanging vegetation from gardens.
Lowered kerbs for disabled access would be desirable. Removal of dog soil, and horse droppings, and the need for horses to keep to brideways in Moore Meadows are other points raised.
Another problem is parking on footpaths and grass verges, which impedes pedestrian access.

Do you have any other Environmental issues?
A view was expressed that there should be no more development in Moore, as the fumes, noise and light pollution from Runcorn Road and Manor Park give cause for concern. Motor or quad bike usage in the vicinity of the Nature Reserve along with aircraft using Liverpool airport were considered a nuisance.
There was a suggestion that recycling facilities should be provided to add to the bottle bank at the Rugby Club, and the paper and can bank at Moore Primary School.
MOORE VILLAGE PARISH PLAN
Results of Questionnaire on LEISURE

Question 13
To which Village organisations do your family belong?

Of the 133 who responded to this question half did not belong to any of the many clubs available, and this did not seem to be a true reflection of the membership of the various organisations, which are:
- Womens Institute
- Scouts
- Parish Church
- Rugby Club
- Milner Institute
- Probus
- Whist/Cards Club
- Rainbows
- Cubs
- Pre-School Keep Fit
- Beavers
- Brownies
- Rainbows
- Pre-School Keep Fit
- Pilates
- Tai-Chi
- Toddlers Bowls
- Over 60’s
- Hatton Show
- Crochet
- Church Fellowship

Question 14
Are there sufficient leisure facilities for young people?

Yes 15%
No 40%
Undecided 45%

If No – What is needed?
- Youth Club
- Tennis
- Ask the young people
- Football Pitch
- Skate Board/Roller Board Facility
- Cyber Café
- Play Area (Red Lion side of Runcorn Road)
- Table Tennis
- Bowling Green at Rugby Club

Other suggestions
- Badminton
- Cricket
- 5 a side Football
- Bicycle Exercise
- Methodist Church as Youth Centre
- Keep Fit Sessions
- Access to School Play areas
- Minibus to Brookvale
- Rugby and Football Clubs to be more involved in Village activities
- Village Junior Football Team
- Junior Version of a ‘pub’

Question 15
What Leisure Facilities would adults like to see?

Tennis Court
Bowling Green
Tea Dances
Family Cinema
Evening/Adult Classes
Swimming Pool/Gymnasium
More Clubs and Meeting Facilities

Other suggestions
- Pilates
- Mobile Cinema
- Afternoon Teas
- Youth Centre
- Teashop in Methodist Chapel
- Gardening Club
- Amateur Dramatics
- Local Bands and Acts in the Pub
- Mobile Library
- Village events, Fairs, Markets, Bonfires
- Adult Social Occasions
- Cyber Café/Computer Lessons
- Evening Keep Fit and Dance School
- Running/Keep Fit Club
- Something for 30’s and 40’s
- Village Pond
- Community Centre
- 9 Hole Pitch and Putt
- Annual Village Show
- Yoga
Any other suggestions to Protect, Celebrate or Plan for your Village?

No new building
Village improvements by:
  - Road resurfacing (quieter surface)
  - Hanging Baskets
  - Flower Tubs
  - Seats
  - ‘Antique; Lighting
Discourage through traffic; Speed control
Encourage through traffic from Sandymoor to use Daresbury Expressway
New Road between Manor Park and Warrington side of village
Improve Six Acre Lane and access to Moore Meadows
Crossing point on Runcorn Road in area of Six Acre Lane to access Play Area
Parking area for Village Store and new usage Methodist Chapel
Alternative Parking for houses on Runcorn Road near Red Lion
Methodist Chapel as Medical/Community Centre
Clean and Tidy Village
Protect existing buildings. Conservation area confirmed/extended
Keep and nurture Shop/Post Office/Pub as local resources
Update Milner Institute and arrange celebration for its Centenary
Keep Parish Council and village as country units
Keep village as a village and not an extension of Sandymoor
More whole Village events
Garden Competition
Better support for groups that seem to stand alone
More Groups for older people
Quarterly Meeting for Crafts/Poetry/Painting etc; groups
Better Policing – especially evenings and nights
More input and support for Heritage Group
Village dig – possibly Moore Meadows, with Village involvement
Village Website as a contact point for people with similar interests
Protect open spaces
Promote and protect wildlife
Environmental approach – retention of greenery
Route 66 to provide service to Daresbury Church
Annual Summer Fair
Annual Scarecrow Trail
Harvest Queen – more support
Farmers Markets/ Allotments
More communication about events to encourage involvement
Protection of canal access at Moorefield (establish right of way)
Extension of and maintenance to cycle path from Walton to Keckwick
More information on future plans for Moore Meadows
Measures to guard against establishment of travellers sites
Greater involvement by residents in their village
Don't commercialise the special character of Moore Village
The Shop is the best!
A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

COMMUNICATION.
Residents were pleased with the amount of information they received through the newsletter but suggested improvements in communication included
- A village website
- Contributions in the newsletter from residents.
- Regular village meetings to air views
- More notice boards around the village.

SERVICES
- Residents were concerned about the lack of a police presence in the village and would like this to be improved.
- Many thought the bus services, particularly in the evenings were inadequate and would like these extending.
- The possibility of opening Daresbury Station would be advantageous.
- Visits from the mobile library at weekends would be appreciated.
- More recycling facilities were requested for the village.

ENVIRONMENT
Residents are very keen to keep a village ‘feel’ to Moore. This may be through adding to existing features or dealing with issues which mar the rural nature of the village.
- Speeding traffic and parking problems have been an issue in the village for some time and need addressing.
- Certain areas of the village need regular visits from HBC Cleansing Department
- Residents should be made more aware of the dangers of dog fouling.
- The appearance of the village could be improved by adding or adapting street furniture.
- Some footpaths in the village need urgent attention, including the addition of disabled access.
- Residents want to know the future of the Nature Reserve.

LEISURE FACILITIES
The village is regularly commended on the high number of clubs and organisations which meet regularly at various venues in the village. Many more suggestions were made to add to these.

The main areas suggested to improve leisure facilities were-
- An audit of the current use of facilities available in the village to ascertain whether better use could be made of these.
- The possible acquisition of the Methodist Chapel as a resource for the village. Many suggestions were given for its use including a Youth Club (which is desperately needed in the village), a library, a place for doctors and dentists to hold surgeries and also as a base for many other additional clubs.

The Parish Council will now look at setting up working groups to investigate these issues. (see action plans)
The village of Moore has existed for over 400 years, appearing on almost all of the earliest maps of Cheshire produced during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Despite the inexorable encroachment of the urban areas of Runcorn and Warrington, the vast majority of the present villagers still see Moore as a village with its own identity and wish it to retain its unique, if evolving, character. We are, in the main, happy with our village as it is. We don’t want it to change in any material way but, as with all things, inaction is not enough. We felt that we needed to galvanise the village in order not only to protect what we already have but also to identify present frustrations and to define an action plan to make living in our village even better than it is now.

We are proud of the work done by the members of the Village Plan Committee in compiling this plan and of the effort and thought behind the contributions from the people of Moore in general in producing our Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer sincere thanks to Jan MacDonald and her team for the substantial effort and clarity of analysis they have applied to this project. They have produced an enduring statement of how we should take our village forward into the 21st century. It is now down to us, the people who live here, and to our colleagues in Halton Council, to ensure that our voice is heard and our wishes acted upon.

Peter Edmonds
Chairman of Moore Parish Council