

## **Open Spaces Group report, 02Oct17**

We welcomed a new member, Elanor Mitchell. Our current group is:

Antony Cook, Sylvia Dyke, Elanor Mitchell, Hilary Robinson, Jane Smith.

We have had a couple of other expressions of interest.

We've continued to look at the various open spaces in Alsager, mainly as a desk-based exercise, while awaiting the survey report from Cheshire Wildlife Trust. We're producing short descriptions of each of the most significant green spaces in Alsager. The prime question must be, "Why is this area important?"

The draft list of the areas we want to include as Local Green Spaces is:

Cedar Avenue playing field

Cranberry Moss

Fanny's Croft (need to be clear about extent of public access?)

Linley Park/Merelake Way

Milton Park

Salt Line/Borrow Pit (partly in Church Lawton)

Wood Park

There are some smaller, but well-used areas e.g. the land between St Gabriel's and Hall Drive, and the land behind Motorways shop on Talke Road.

We also need to consider the four allotment sites, school playing fields (and the MMU pitches) and children's play areas, perhaps by means of policies rather than as individual areas? These may count as Community Assets rather than Local Green Spaces?

The Mere is important but only the two viewing areas (pocket parks) have public access at present. Islands would improve the Mere for wildlife. I think the Town Centre Group have looked at the Mere.

We have a concern about possible overlaps or gaps between the different working groups, e.g. do Public Rights of Way come under our remit, or Infrastructure? Similarly, the urgent need for burial space.

Are we supposed to be looking at heritage assets like old buildings, or does that come under the Town Centre group?

Should we be thinking about environmental and sustainability policies in general?

*Hilary Robinson*

