

St Oswald's Church, Brereton

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Ros Middleweek
Clerk to Brereton Parish Council
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22 May 2015

BY EMAIL

Dear Ros

**Brereton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (Pre- Submission Version)
Comments by St Oswald's Church Brereton PCC**

Following a meeting of Brereton Parochial Church Council earlier this week, I am writing to you with their comments made on behalf of St Oswald's Parish Church, Brereton on the Brereton Parish neighbourhood Plan (Pre- Submission Version).

First I should say that the PCC welcomed and appreciated all the effort and hard work which has obviously gone into the preparation of Neighbourhood Plan and to the production of such a quality document. The Pre-submission Version of the Plan has been on deposit for public inspection at St Oswald's Church during this consultation period and has been the subject of much interest.

These comments are made by:

1. **Name:** Brereton Parochial Church Council (the annually elected by the membership of St Oswald's Church) on behalf of:
2. **Organisation or Body:** St Oswald's Parish Church
3. **Post Code** CW11 1RY
4. **Address:** St Oswald's Church Brereton Park, Brereton Sandbach (*Correspondence to be addressed to the Rectory Brereton Sandbach CW11 1RY*)
5. **Consultee Type:** Religious
6. **Our comment refer to the Full Pre-submission Plan**
9. **Community Policies COM03**

Our comments concern omissions from the Plan. The objective of improving community facilities and contributing additional facilities and services is supported. However we are concerned that the plan makes very little reference to three important existing community facilities in Brereton, which during the plan period may require improvement. These three community facilities are an important land use in the Parish and should be referred to in the plan. These existing community facilities are set out below:

(a) St Oswald's Church

- (i) St Oswald's is Brereton's Parish Church which holds three services every Sunday and is the principal location in the parish for weddings and funerals.
- (ii) The churchyard is the only burial ground in Brereton for parish residents as well as providing an attractive open space
- (iii) The church is used occasionally for wider community uses, including exhibitions (WW1 Exhibition, Flower Festival and Bear Festival) and concerts. The church provides access to the community at specified weekends in the summer for refreshments and for visitors interested in the antiquity of the 500 year old Grade 2*listed building.
- (iv) The church is the only building in the parish big enough to host Brereton Primary School and Brereton Pre-school & Nursery's leavers' and other services.
- (v) The church has engaged a specialist architect to work up detailed plans for the provision of a community room in the church and re-ordering of the interior which will enable the church to be used for wider range of community functions.
- (vi) The Parish Council paid for the initial measured survey of the church and we ask the Neighbourhood Plan to endorse these planned improvements to the community facilities.

(b) Brereton Church of England (Aided) Primary School

- (i) Brereton Primary School in Brereton Green is a successful and growing modern church primary school with around 170, children in seven single age classes from Reception through to Year 6. School house (which was the head teacher's house in days gone by) has been improved to provide additional facilities and an additional classroom for a growing school and a link corridor from the old school building to the rear of school house is planned.
 - (ii) The school not only provides an important educational facility for Brereton and the surrounding area and is also a local employer with around 20 employees
 - (iii) The School also provides an important community facility. The school hall is regularly used by community groups in the evenings and at weekends. The school field is used for community uses such as the annual Rose Queen Garden Party
 - (iv) The school will be affected by growth in housing in Brereton and nearby and the plan should provide for its improvement and enhancement as may be required during the plan period
- (c) **Brereton Pre-School Nursery & Play Group** situated next to the school in Brereton Green. It was established by volunteers many years ago and is run by a committee of volunteers which employs nursery staff. It provides a valuable community facility to parents in the parish.

6.2 Community Centre (Proposed)

None of the above comments about the need to value and improve existing community facilities detracts from the proposal for a community centre or village hall in Brereton. This proposal is supported and St Oswald's church would wish to be involved in the provision and use of a community centre with other voluntary and community groups

I hope you find these comments constructive and helpful

Yours sincerely

The Revd. Robin Mosley

