

AUGHTON AND SWALLOWNEST WARD

Covering Aughton, Orgreave, Swallownest and Ulley



Councillor
Robert Taylor



Councillor
Lyndsay Pitchley

Report to Full Council

January 2024

Ward priorities

- Develop & support initiatives that will improve health & well-being and tackle poverty.
- Develop and support initiatives around crime and community safety.
- Develop and support initiatives that will improve the environment and the neighbourhood.

How these ward priorities were agreed

We know that local people are best placed to tell us about where they live and what matters to them. To assess our Ward Plan priorities we have used a range of information, including the ward profile, taken into consideration the views of our partners, voluntary and community organisations.



Most importantly we have engaged with our residents, consulting with them at every opportunity by arranging a variety of engagement events which have included: visits to schools, community groups, pop-up coffee mornings, meet your councillor roadshows and community safety events.

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our approach has been and remains centred on our community, listening and working with them to make a difference. We recognise that there is a wealth of social and community assets and we continue to put the community at the heart of everything we do, to make people healthier, happier and proud of where they live by working with residents on things that are important to them.

Working in partnership.

We strongly believe that working in partnership with our partners is the best way to help our neighbourhood thrive. We have 3 Parish Councils within our Ward and we work closely with them, the Police and other partners on issues and concerns to achieve the best outcome for our residents.

Progress so far:

Over the last 2 years our Capital ward funding and Community Leadership funding has been used to support over 30 projects in the Aughton and Swallownest area, working with residents and partners to deliver our ward priorities. Here are some examples of the work that has been carried out so far:

Priority 1 - Develop & support initiatives that will improve health & well-being and tackle poverty.

- We have worked in partnership with all the Junior & Infant schools within our ward, improved engagement and encouraged alternative learning methods by supporting real-life style elections during Democracy week, taking part in Inspirational days and provided funding so that schools could improve their outdoor reading spaces and provide friendship benches.

- Worked in partnerships with Aston Leisure Centre to provide free mini and me fitness sessions which is a combination of exercise for parents and soft play area for children.
- Worked in partnership with Aston Parish Council and Pritchard and Sons to provide a memorial tree and plaque at Burgoyne Park where people can leave messages and remember their loved ones.
- Neighbourhood centres are a great community asset and to support these we have provided funding to community groups and worked in partnership with Rotherfed and Age UK who have provided activities in the centres which help to reduce social isolation, improve mental health and well-being.
- We have carried out a young person's survey and worked with partners to identify where there are gaps in provision of activities and are proud to support the delivery of boxing sessions for young people that are being held weekly at Aston Parish Hall.
- We have supported intergenerational events by providing funding to Swallowing Bowling Club who provide free teaching and training for school children.
- We are working with partners to deliver a community lifestyle event where residents will be able to receive information on all aspects of health, money advice, energy know-how and other initiatives to help with the cost-of-living crisis.
- We held a spring celebration event to say thank you to all the volunteers and community groups in the Ward who work tirelessly to provide activities and support their fellow residents.

Priority 2 - Develop and support initiatives around crime and community safety.

- We have listened to our residents and are working with the Transportation and Highways department to identify ways to improve road safety near Aston Fence Junior & Infant school.
- We have pushed for improved road safety at Chesterfield Way and we are pleased that the installation of a pedestrian crossing has been approved.
- Raised the awareness of dangerous driving and peer pressure by working in partnership with Hope Charity who delivered their collision course to partners who work with families and young people.
- We have listened to resident's concerns and Capital funding will be used to put in place traffic calming measures on Smallage Lane.
- We hold regular pop-up community safety events with the Police & partners where residents can raise their concerns, receive advice on how to keep safe and receive free safety items and prevention of drink spiking items which have been purchased with our Ward budget.
- Provided safer access to shops and improved parking around the Rosegarth Shopping parade, in partnership with the Towns and Villages team.
- Ward funding has been used to provide tube surveys at Ulley and we are supporting Ulley Parish Council with the provision of "Please drive safely, welcome to our village" signs.

Priority 3 - Develop and support initiatives that will improve the environment and the neighbourhood.

- We have consulted with residents and worked with partners to agree the location of the new litter bins on Chesterfield Road.
- We often join our volunteer community litter pickers who give up their time to keep their streets clean and tidy.
- Worked in partnership with Housing to provide community skips.
- We continue to arrange a wide range of engagement events including estate walkabouts which gives us the opportunity to talk to residents about what is important to them, what they like and don't like about where they live.

