

Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association

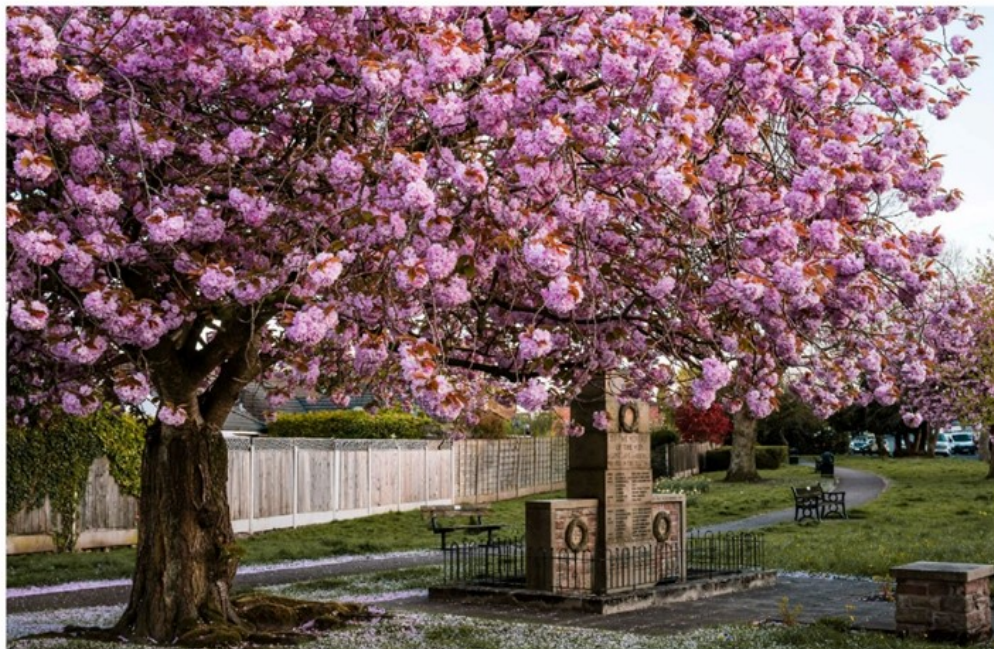
Watching over the interests of Heald Green ward since 1927

Contact



Spring 2026 edition: news, events and updates for our ward

Issue 213



www.healdgreenratepayers.org.uk

Committee and Councillors



The Ratepayers' Association is run by a committee which meets monthly. To contact the association please email: email@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk or you can ring one of the committee members or councillors. Links to our socials and website are here: <https://linktr.ee/HGRatepayers>

John Williams (Chair)	35 Neal Avenue	07912 515 570
Jamat Ali (Secretary)	98 Crantock Drive	07939 337 822
Dave Dillon	2 Curzon Road	07729 230107
Tom Golden	7 Drayton Drive	07970 823 539
Louise Golden	7 Drayton Drive	07970 823 539
David Mullin	12 Hambleton Road	0161 436 1428
Rajesh Patel	3 Troon Drive	0161 428 2713
John Tasker	1 St Ann's Road North	07485 163226
Lynton Threadgold	5 Troon Drive	0161 491 0983
Helen Wise	16 Mona Avenue	07804 776 868

Independent Ratepayers' Councillors

Cllr Anna Charles-Jones	Cllr Carole McCann	Cllr Catherine Stuart
71 Greenway Road	276 Styal Road	59 Thornton Road
07831 159 199	07771 681 004	07818 591 594
cllr.a.charles-jones	cllr.carole.mccann	cllr.c.stuart
@stockport.gov.uk	@stockport.gov.uk	@stockport.gov.uk



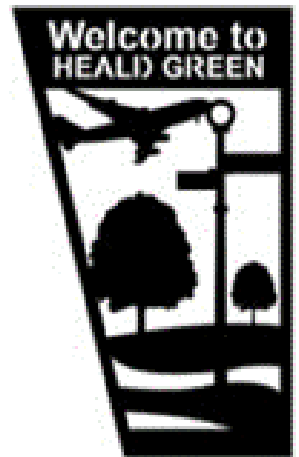
Parking Update

The councillors continue to keep the pressure on regarding the parking issues in the village, at a recent meeting with the council's Highways Team new measures to deter problematic parking were discussed. These include the addition of a KEEP CLEAR markings to the side of Peter Herd, the relocation of some bollards to prevent inconsiderate parking on the grass and pavements in front of Subway and Tesco and the installation of a bike stand to prevent parking on the dropped kerb opposite Peter Herd.

Parking is limited in the village however, anti-social parking by a small number of drivers only increases the problem by restricting the smooth flow of traffic which frustrates people who park more considerately. With over 1,000 parking tickets issued in 12 months, this shows that we receive more parking enforcement than many other wards across the borough thanks to the consistent efforts of our councillors.

Gateway Signs

We are told that the gateway signs are close to being installed on Finney Lane near the station. It is not an exaggeration to say that these have been planned for years; we started looking at potential designs in 2020 & the final design was chosen by public vote in 2021! The design features a plane, trees and our fingerpost (which was damaged following a car accident towards the end of last year and is currently being repaired). The fingerpost will be re-installed near the junction of Finney Lane & Outwood Rd as soon as possible; we hope it doesn't take as long as the gateway signs...



Subscriptions

To become a Ratepayers' member, you can set up an annual Standing Order to: Account number 05814219 Sort code: 01-03-90 in the name of 'Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers Association,' please reference your address. Your help is vital to support the association in continuing to do our best for our community.

Council Finances and Council Tax Rates for 2026/27

At time of going to print the council budget has not been confirmed; we will publish more detailed information once it is. However, we wanted to make everyone aware of the headline information because it will impact everyone who lives here and sadly, it's not good news.

Council Tax is not just set by Stockport Council and its councillors. Government determines funding levels to each council through the annual Local Government Finance Settlement. As part of this the Government assumes how much Council Tax and Business Rates each council will collect, then uses a formula to determine how much additional funding each should receive. Some authorities which have greater needs receive additional Recovery Grant too, unfortunately Stockport just misses out on this by 0.1%. This year the Government has redistributed funding via the "Fairer Funding Formula," as well as announcing funding allocations for councils for the next three years. "Fairer Funding" brings much smaller increases in the amount of grant given to Stockport Council. Government also assumes that Council Tax will rise by 4.99% in each of the next three years. The medium term financial plan shows that despite the increase in taxes there will be very significant shortfalls to the budget that are likely to mean cuts to current services.



Where Stockport Council's 2025/26 budget has been spent
(Source: Stockport Council)

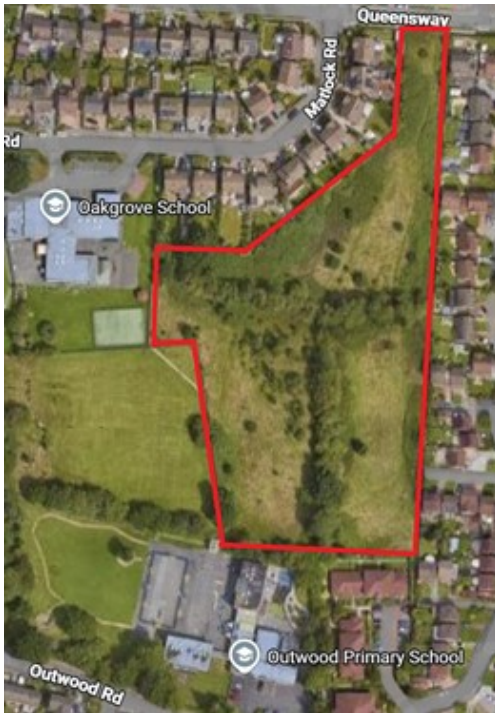
This graphic shows what Stockport Council spent its budget on this year. Most of the funds, almost two thirds, go on services that help people, mostly social care. These are the services the council legally has to provide; including those for our ageing population. For many years now Government funding has not kept up with needs, meaning ever higher Council Tax payments. Local government continues to bear the brunt of austerity. As always, we will seek to do the best for our ward, and the stability of the wider council, we will draw on our long experience to address the future challenges we anticipate.

Introducing Bruckshaw Meadow



In January, The Friends of Bruckshaw Meadow was formed, bringing together people from Outwood Primary School, the Ratepayers and the wider community. Bruckshaw Meadow is the new name, with historic meaning, for the natural open space which can be accessed either off Queensway near its junction with East Ave, or via Deanwater Court, off Outwood Rd. This land was previously allocated for housebuilding but Cllr Anna Charles-Jones successfully argued with planners that this site should be kept as green space for the community. The site is 1.68 hectares which is approximately the size of 64 tennis courts!

From the aerial view (copyright Google Maps) with Queensway to the north you can see a 'T' shape of hedges dividing up the site, these are old field boundaries, the fields were called Bleak Flatt, Kitchen Meadow and Old Meadow & Barn Field. According to the 1839 tithe map, all of these fields were owned by local landowner John Bruckshaw so the newly formed Friends group felt that Bruckshaw Meadow worked well. The logo includes a horse because the land is part of what was known locally as the horses' field.



Plans are developing to make the site more accessible; we hope the first step will be to improve the existing muddy path and potential future plans might include seating and information boards about the site's history and wildlife.

Exciting progress ahead as we work to create a welcoming, nature-friendly space for the community. To find out more or follow progress: <https://linktr.ee/bruckshawmeadow>

Draft Local Plan—Update

In the last edition of Contact we detailed the draft Local Plan allocations for more housing within Heald Green and how you could take part in the public consultation which ended just before Christmas. Planning officers are now examining all of the submissions to check if there are any material changes that need to be considered. Once this process has been completed, there will be a final public consultation in summer 2026 before the plan is submitted for examination at the end of 2026. The plan will then be examined by a planning inspector before a report is produced and the council will then vote on formally adopting the plan, this is anticipated to take place in Winter 2027/2028.

Recently, Breck Homes held a developer-led consultation on the smallest allocation off Bolshaw Road, outlining early proposals for approximately 64 homes, all of which would be classed as 'affordable'.

No formal planning application has yet been submitted. Any future application would still need to go through the full planning process, including a formal public consultation, detailed flood risk, traffic and environmental assessments, and a decision by the council. At this stage the land remains in the greenbelt. However, as the Local Plan progresses through its different stages, its content is given increasing weight in the decision making process.

Airport Consultative Committee

The Ratepayers' Association now has a dedicated representative who attends this group to voice any views you may have. Issues discussed recently include:

- Taxis and private hire vehicles using the local area to wait for pickups - there is now a dedicated hackney carriage and private hire area that charges a low fee of £1.50 per 90 minutes so there is no need for taxis to park on residential streets. The private hire service is currently out to tender & it is hoped the new contract will help deliver a more joined up approach.
- The airport is now operating the noise reduction rules between the hours of 23.00 and 07.00 and feedback has been favourable.
- The Ground Insulation Grant Scheme is still in operation to residents closer to the airport, including parts of Heald Green for items such as secondary glazing or double glazing.
- A reminder that drone flying around the airport is forbidden; it can cause serious problems and incur hefty fines for those breaching the rules.

Update on the Section 19 Flood Investigation Report

Following the severe flooding across the whole of Stockport on 1 January 2025, Stockport Council has published the findings of the independent Section 19 Flood Investigation Report, something it is legally required to do. This was presented to the Cheadle Area Committee meeting on 3 February.

In Heald Green, flooding was caused mainly by intense rainfall overwhelming drainage systems, rather than rivers or tributaries bursting their banks, something which did cause flooding in other areas. The report identifies several contributing factors to the flooding in Heald Green, these were:

- Very heavy rainfall falling on already saturated ground
- Low-lying areas where water naturally flows and collects
- Surface water runoff from surrounding roads and nearby fields
- High groundwater levels, with some residents experiencing water rising beneath floorboards
- Sewer surcharging where excess surface water entered the foul sewer system, because it couldn't flow into the river Mersey.

Importantly, **investigations found no evidence that blocked drains or lack of gully cleaning caused the flooding.** The systems were working but were simply overwhelmed by the sheer volume of water; climate change means extreme rainfall is becoming more frequent with much more intense rainfall into drains and gullies that were designed to cope with much lower volumes.

The report sets out recommendations to reduce future risk, including continued maintenance and the need for residents to improve property-level resilience such as adding flood gates to properties that are at increased risk.

Also, councillors have suggested more awareness raising about the problems caused by concreting over gardens with non permeable surfaces – and that planning consent is usually needed for this. Longer-term planning applications will also take place using updated flood risk data. Councillors are seeking to make this issue a standing item at Cheadle Area Committee.

Be Prepared — Flooding What You Need to Know

There is information on our website, from a Civil Contingencies briefing given to councillors, about how to prepare for emergency events:

<https://www.healdgreenratepayers.org.uk/latest-news-and-updates/>

We can share paper copies if you require them.

Our Work to Protect the Village Hall Field and Cross Road Playing Fields

The Village Hall field on Outwood Rd was left to the people of Heald Green in perpetuity under covenant and is now owned by Stockport Council. The planning advice the Ratepayers received ahead of the latest Local Plan was that a covenant would not be enough to stop the land being developed, and this is why the 2016 GMSF plan proposed a road across the Village Hall Field to access Nixon's land.

The Cross Road playing fields are different as they are in the Greenbelt but this status can also be removed in some circumstances. This meant that neither site had protections that could stop development. This applies to other green spaces in Heald Green and across the borough.

During the Stockport Local Plan Call for Sites in early 2025, the association worked with planning specialists from the Open Spaces Society to explore getting Village Green classification for several sites in Heald Green. Village Green designation protects land based on historic recreational use, granting communities a legal right to use it for sport and leisure in perpetuity, even if ownership changes.

Initial work focused on the fields at Cross Road and the Village Hall, as both appeared to meet the criteria. However, the land could not be registered under the evidence route because it is publicly owned and already used for recreation with landowner permission so the existing covenant on the Village Hall fields prevented this classification.

This left two options: asking Stockport Council if they would voluntarily register the land as Village Green or seeking Local Green Space designation through the Local Plan process, which would afford protections at least for the life of the Local Plan. The association therefore sought to gain protection for these sites by including them in their submission of areas to be preserved from development. Firstly, as part of the Local Plan process in the January 2025 Call for Sites. Then secondly, in its response to the December 2025 draft Local Plan consultation.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is organising a National Day of Action on 18 April 2026. Community groups are encouraged to take part in activities such as walks or local events, please visit their website and get involved if you can.



Slimming World
taste
the
freedom

YOUR LOCAL HEALD GREEN GROUPS
WEDNESDAYS 5.30PM & 7PM
CAFE UNITY, FINNEY LANE, HEALD GREEN, SK8 3QA
WITH SUE 07532 376697
THURSDAYS 7.30AM & 9.30AM
HEALD GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WILMSLOW ROAD, HEALD GREEN, SK8 3BH
WITH CHRISTINE 07402 140715
CALL FOR MORE INFO & JOINING OFFERS

Cheadle Masjid – Stanley House Project

Cheadle Masjid has acquired the former Waggon and Horses site, which it has renamed “Stanley House,” after Lord Stanley of Alderley, the first Muslim member of the House of Lords.

The plan is to create a multi-purpose facility for the local community. Ideas for the site include a community café, youth and family activities and celebrations including weddings. The site is over the border in Cheshire East, so any changes to the site that necessitate planning applications won’t fall under the remit of Stockport Council.

The masjid extended an invitation to the bowling group to continue to use the site however, the bowling group chose not to do so as they had already made other arrangements. The masjid is keen to stress that they see the site, with its large car park, as an opportunity to improve parking in the area at peak times.

A Note from Cllr Stuart Regarding the 2026 Election

My election in 2024 was the last here for Stockport Council; I wanted to share my concern about the poor behaviour from some campaigners.

Firstly, there was a lot of misinformation being spread about what local councillors do and say – I was saddened to find on the door steps claims made about things that I had not said. Some campaigners were clearly so desperate that they were resorting to spreading lies about what we do and say. We are happy to meet with anyone who genuinely wants to discuss our role and local issues.

A lot of people don't understand fully what councils do and unscrupulous campaigners make things up. Our duties are to oversee the services the council provides and ensure a balanced budget is set. We represent the ward and all residents at council meetings – our influence relates only to issues in Stockport. Our association is dedicated to looking after the interests of our ward, and those who live in it, and we won't deviate from this. Please sense check anything you are told against this. We've been representing this ward for nearly 100 years because we are trusted to represent our community and we care about here more than anyone.

At our last election we were made aware of people from political parties removing election leaflets from letter boxes whilst delivering their own – this is illegal. If you witness this you should take a photo of the person doing it and report it to the police. Also, all election information promoting a candidate, both online and delivered to the door, should contain an imprint showing who it is in support of, who is promoting it, and the publisher. Any information promoting a candidate without this is illegal and should also be reported to the police.

Campaigning outside schools is frowned on in well run political groups. As a parent at one of the primary schools, I was horrified to see this in 2024 – if you see this occurring again in Heald Green please complain, loudly, to the party's campaign office.

Finally, elections can be strange, crazy, things to take part in. We should respect and be thankful to everyone who takes part in the democratic process, it's not something we should ever take for granted.

Meet Your Neighbours Night - Community Event

At the suggestion of a local resident we're having our first "Meet Your Neighbours Night" on 24 March 2026, 7.30pm, at the Village Hall, Outwood Road, Heald Green, SK8 3JL. It aims to be a relaxed, welcoming, evening designed to bring the Heald Green community closer together, we're providing drinks and a bite to eat. This is a ticketed event for Heald Green residents - so sign up if you wish to attend (this allows us to plan our catering) via this link: www.ticketsource.co.uk/heald-green-ratepayers, or contact: Cllr Stuart on 07818 591 594.



Scouts— 2nd Heald Green



**Contact us to
find out more!**



Volunteering Opportunities

We are looking for adults to support our group

Trustees

Guiding our future direction

Events Support

Bonfires, Festivals and Camps

Outdoor Pursuits Support

Climbing, Hiking, Archery etc.

Section Leaders

Support regular meetings with our young people

Plant Sale

Our Annual Bedding Plant Sale returns in May

Why not order some fabulous plants to brighten up your garden this summer

Order online or pick up a paper order form from Roger Dean Estate Agents, or our HQ



Bedding Plant Sale
Scan QR to Order

Young Leaders

Aged 18-24 and are looking to enhance your CV?

Leadership Skills

Learn to lead groups and events

Communication Skills

Learn to influence and guide

Confidence

Learn about yourself

Enhance your prospects

Demonstrable experience for the workplace

Scan the QR code below to find out more



Preparing young people with skills for life
Behind Methodist Church, Brown Lane, Heald Green, SK8 3RR
Email: 2hg@chealdlescouts.org.uk | Web: 2ndhealdgreen.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1031738

Postal Vote – You May Need to Reapply

A postal vote cannot last longer than three years. So, you may need to reapply before the next election to continue voting by post. You can reapply using the official government website: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> or via the Stockport Council website 'Vote by Post' page under the Elections section of the website – <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/ways-of-voting/vote-by-post>

Stay Up to Date and Subscribe to Our Monthly Email Newsletter

If you would like to keep up to date via our monthly electronic newsletter, or if you have events that you would like featured, our contact details are here: <https://linktr.ee/HGRatepayers>

In the last issue of Contact we introduced our candidate in the upcoming election, Anna Charles-Jones and described her wider borough and national roles. But who is Anna and what has she done for Heald Green ward? Whilst others talk about what they *plan to do* for Heald Green ward *Anna has already*:



Worked diligently over several years, using her influence and position she has **saved our precious Village Hall Field** which was previously threatened with development despite being left by the original owner in perpetuity for our community.



Successfully fought to **remove the threat of development from an area of land** between Queensway and Outwood Road and has recently established the Friends of Bruckshaw Meadow (see page 5 for more info).



Worked closely with the local heritage group and council to secure meaningful names for new roads, including names from our War Memorial. Anna is proud to have been part of **ensuring that Heald Green's history is remembered & respected**.



Been in **regular contact with the local policing team, senior council officers & the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester** to raise issues relevant to Heald Green around antisocial behaviour and community cohesion.



Anna has lived in Heald Green since 2006 and has been a councillor for the last decade. This means that Anna is an experienced pair of hands, **adept at getting the best for Heald Green** ward. Anna loves where she lives and firmly believes that local representation works best when it's **led by people who put our community**

rather than party interests first. Anna says: "It remains a great privilege to serve my local community. Heald Green ward and the Ratepayers Association have both changed a lot since I moved here, but my aim remains the same in continuing to work hard to keep our strong sense of community, something which people from other parts of the borough consistently comment on".