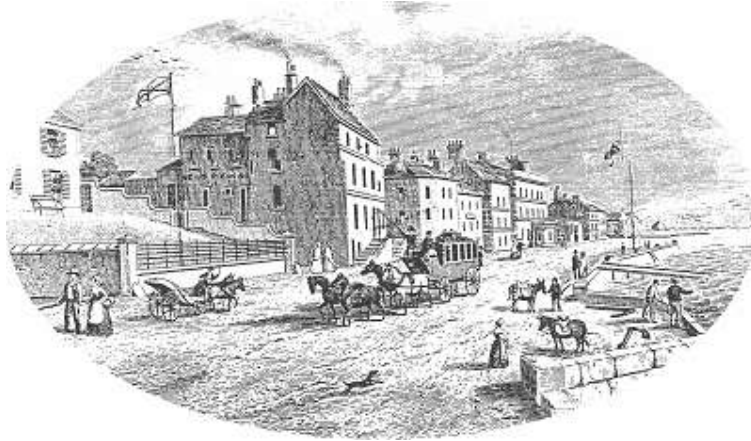


Parkgate Society

Founded 1972



‘Our Vision for Parkgate – 2020 to 2030’



The Context

Parkgate is Cheshire's only coastal resort: its character was established in the Georgian period. The village lies within the parish of Neston, and takes its name from the former Neston Park, where deer were kept for hunting in the middle ages. In the early 1600s, after the sale of this park land, an anchorage was established here for merchant ships and the packet boats sailing for Dublin; at the same time a small fishing village grew up on the shore; then in the 18th century the area also became a fashionable resort for sea bathing – people socialised by parading along the seafront, or along Cheltenham Walk (now The Ropewalk), if the weather was inclement. Today's visitors still like to parade along the sea wall, although the sea has long gone, except at very high tides, when it can still lap against the wall; however, they now come for the marvellous views, which Turner painted, to study and marvel at the local birdlife and, of course, for the famous ice cream.



The Parkgate Society was formed as a conservation society in 1972, and was a key partner in the creation of the conservation area. By that time some of the Georgian buildings had gone and others were showing a lack of maintenance. It was hoped that the establishment of a conservation area under the new powers then available would help maintain the character of the village, but keeping it tidy and attractive depends on on-going community involvement. We now pledge to try and match fund our own resources with other funding towards the upkeep of this historical coastal village. To this end we encourage local businesses and private residents to take a pride in the appearance of their premises; we publish books and guides and hold monthly members' meetings. We first promoted 'Our Vision for Parkgate' in collaboration with the local authorities with the object of identifying areas of improvement which would benefit local residents and visitors alike, bearing in mind the importance of the visitor economy to the area. It is now time to take stock and review our vision, to make it relevant for the next decade.

Our aims enshrined in our constitution are as follows:

- (a) To promote the conservation of the historic character of the village, its buildings etc.
- (b) To promote knowledge about and awareness of Parkgate's historic past.
- (c) To promote Parkgate as an attractive place for both residents and visitors.
- (d) To promote efforts to keep Parkgate tidy.

The Parkgate Society defines its area of interest as that bounded by Moorside Lane, Buggen Lane, Leighton Road and Boathouse Lane, plus The Runnel and Chester High Road between the Runnel and Boathouse Lane, including the estates/houses accessed from these roads. This basically covers the area stretching from Old Quay Lane to the Gayton boundary, effectively establishing the railway line as

the eastern boundary for much of its length. The central area of focus for us, however, is the Parkgate conservation area, shown below.



The Parkgate Conservation Area

as shown in the Neston Neighbourhood Plan

This document briefly outlines some of the work undertaken over the past 10 years and looks forward to aspirations for the coming decade.

Our Activities

Over recent years we have engaged in the following activities:

Publications. We have published “This is Parkgate” and “Parkgate Heritage Trail”, the latter associated with the installation of a number of plaques at buildings of historical interest. Twice a year we publish newsletters, which are distributed to our members and also available on our website.

Website. Our website can be found at www.parkgatesociety.co.uk which gives a great deal of information about the area, its history, and our work, providing access to our archives, including all newsletters published since 1972, and our plans for the future.

Meetings and Talks. Other than during the summer months, we hold our regular monthly meetings and talks, which generally relate to our area and its history; these are held at Neston Cricket Club and are usually very well attended.

Planning and public realm. We look carefully at planning applications across the area, especially those affecting our historic and listed buildings. Our view is that the Conservation Area should have a unified appearance with appropriate heritage style street lighting and street furniture, with more interpretation boards explaining historical background, etc.

Community Spirit Team. We have established a team of volunteers – the Society’s Community Spirit Team – to act as a task force, to carry out litter picking, weeding communal areas and trimming back vegetative growth, flower planting, etc.

Social Events. We hold regular social events and have supported festivals including sponsorship of musical events along with attendance and representation at regional events of similar interest.

Local Authorities. We promote our aims and views, where appropriate, through our links with Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) and with Neston Town Council.

Projects. We have undertaken a large variety of projects, summarised in the schedule below, in no particular order, along with details of projects still outstanding and some ideas for the future. Whilst in the main our work has concentrated on the Conservation Area and particularly The Parade, we will support community needs and ideas across the whole of the area of Parkgate as defined above.

SCHEDULE

The Parkgate Conservation Area:

The Parkgate Conservation Area was designated by the former Cheshire County Council in 1973 under powers of the Civic Amenities Act of 1967 and following consultations with the then newly formed Parkgate & District Society. It was a matter of general concern that post-war development had seen the demolition of older buildings of character that were being removed to provide sites for new construction which was generally thought to be unsympathetic with the location. We had seen what was happening in Chester at the time and were mindful of the recent Old Quay development in Station Road. Under the 1967 Act the demolition of any building

within a conservation area requires the consent of the local planning authority, while any new development should be seen to preserve and enhance the historic character of the area, and the new buildings themselves should be of high quality and design. The impact of the Act can be seen generally throughout the conservation area, the extent of which is shown on page 3.

Historic England encourages local conservation groups to monitor and assess the state of listed buildings in their area. Within the Parkgate conservation area are about 30 listed buildings, whose owners have specific responsibilities for the maintenance of their premises; there are other listed buildings in the neighbourhood too outside the conservation area. All but two of the listed buildings in Parkgate are residential properties (or, in a few cases, shops with living above), and it is our general view that these are well-maintained by their owners – just one neglected house has recently found a new owner and will, hopefully, be restored soon.

ACTIONS: The Society (1) to continue its support for the ideals of the conservation area and for development within it that is sympathetic to these ideals, and to oppose development which is perceived to be out of character with the neighbourhood; and (2) to seek to recruit to the Committee someone who could take a lead in this area.

The South End of The Parade:

Parkgate's former Custom House and other Georgian buildings once stood here on part of the site now occupied by The Old Quay. The slipway was heavily overgrown with vegetation, which obscured the nature and purpose of the structure and detracted from the appeal of the location. This has been improved by the removal of a large amount of the marsh and other growth, particularly from the nearby sea wall steps. The small traffic island here does not add to the attractiveness of the area, but it performs particular functions, so the scope for using this space as some sort of flower garden is limited. We feel that the bank in front of The Old Quay could be made more attractive with some planting. Two bench seats in this area have been replaced and a further two installed.



The South Parade



The Old Quay on South Parade

ACTIONS: The Society (1) to pursue with the owners the suggestion of flower planting on the bank in front of The Old Quay to make that area more attractive; and (2) to investigate whether there might be suitable locations for further benches in this area.

The Donkey Stand:

In the mid-18th century Parkgate's first Assembly Rooms stood here on what was then the shore; the building later became a seawater bathing house; following its demolition in about 1840 and the subsequent introduction of public holidays the site then became a place for relaxation and donkey hire. Ten years ago this area looked un-cared for and we considered it to be our priority for improvement; it required complete re-paving and re-furbishing with new benches and interpretation boards. Today it is a place where people can again gather and relax, particularly at the time of high (spring) tides when there is much birdlife to be seen. However, the benches installed in 2013 are now in need of some preservative treatment.



Bird observers at the RSPB stall on the Donkey Stand

ACTIONS: The Society to carry out restorative work on the benches in this area.

Mostyn Square:

This area was named after the Welsh family who owned Parkgate until 1849. It is important, as it is the geographical centre of the village, but there is little evidence here now of how it looked in the Georgian period. The 'Fishermen's Church' was built as a non-conformist chapel in 1843; it has recently been re-furbished after a period of closure and is once again open for worship and community use. The possibilities for the upgrading of this space are limited by its use as a bus turning area. The former bus shelter has been demolished, the old gateway to the Churchyard has been re-opened, a new gate is now in place and the streetlight has been re-positioned with a new conservation, heritage-style light. Attention has been given to problems of tree growth in the churchyard. The pavement in front of the restored entrance is rather unsightly and needs some attention; we have suggested that it might be paved using surplus stone from the Donkey Stand project. Four planters have been installed to make the square more colourful. The public toilets have been re-furbished, and part of that building is now unused; the consequent reduction in capacity has resulted in the public frequently asking to use toilet facilities in the local shops. Alternative uses for this space have been considered, but we have supported the Parkgate Traders in their request for the use of these premises to be monitored by CWaC with a view to assessing the demand for additional toilet facilities and the times of availability, before an alternative use for the vacant space is chosen. Recent experience has led us to conclude that toilet facilities in Parkgate are inadequate at busy times. The car-park area to the rear of the toilet block is suffering from the effects of vegetative growth and needs some attention. We are concerned at the state of the wall at the rear of this car park; it forms the boundary with Deeside Court, and is in their ownership.



ACTIONS: (1) The Society to pursue with CWaC the possibility of increasing the capacity and availability of the toilet block; and also improving the Square itself by paving the area in front of St Thomas' Church; (2) CWaC to draw the attention of the owners of Deeside Court the dangerous state of the rear wall of the car park; and (3) the Community Spirit Team to address problems of vegetative growth in the car park.

The Middle Slip:

This location was once used by local fishermen to land their boats and unload their catches, with donkey carts collecting shellfish for transfer to the railway. The slipway is regularly cleared of weeds and marsh growth by our Community Spirit Team. Since the installation here of the Hilbre class boat "Hi-C", a rockery has been created around it and both planted with seasonal flowering plants. The pavement has been re-modelled to follow the line of the roadway, and bollards installed to define the area and prohibit unauthorised vehicle access to the marsh. A large planter has also been installed close by and planted with seasonal flowers. We have agreed in principle with CWaC that a historical interpretation board should be installed here, describing the former fishing industry here and also the background to the nearby Old Watch House, which in the past was used to house Customs officers.



ACTIONS: The Society (1) to take forward with CWaC plans to install the proposed interpretation board at this location; and (2) to repaint the boat and carry out any necessary repairs to it.

The Boathouse Slip:

A shipbuilder's yard existed on the shore near here during the 18th Century, and ferry boats sailed from a landing stage adjacent to the Pengwern Arms (forerunner of the Boathouse) to Flint and Bagillt until the middle of the 19th Century. The encroachment of the marsh has badly affected the slipway, which requires weeding and clearing; it is still required to provide occasional access to the marsh for maintenance vehicles.



The encroachment of the marsh on the slipway adjacent to The Boathouse

ACTIONS: The Society, in collaboration with CWaC, (1) to look at the practicality of designing and commissioning a historical interpretation board for installation here; and (2) to evaluate the practicality of clearing the vegetative growth on the slip and take appropriate steps to tidy up the area so far as possible.

The Old Baths Site:

The Old Baths is a significant site, now providing parking for walkers and bird watchers, who use the area to pursue their hobby. This area was the site of open-air baths, which were constructed and opened in 1923 for the use of pupils of Mostyn House School: the public were also admitted and came in great numbers from a wide area. The silting up of the estuary between the wars, however, caused increasingly difficult problems for the supply of filtered water and eventually led to their final closure in about 1950, by which time it was no longer possible to obtain the water supply from the river. The area is currently part of the Wirral Way Country Park with maintenance the responsibility of the Council's Greenspace team. The private road and the sea wall between the Boathouse and the Old Baths area suffer from weed growth and need regular attention by the Society's Community Spirit team.



Part of the site of the former large pool, Parkgate Baths

ACTIONS: The Society (1) to consider the condition of the public information boards at this location and whether there is a case for renewal/refurbishment or addition of further interpretation boards to tell the story of this place; and (2) keep the state of weed growth under review.

The Sea Wall:

The sea wall between the Old Quay and the Boathouse was constructed in phases between about 1800 and 1840. It was not built for shipping to tie up here, but as a promenade for the many fashionable visitors who came to Parkgate for the sea-bathing and to enjoy the sea air, both of which were felt to be healthy and, indeed, curative. The wall also helps to support the roadway. We remain concerned that the state of the wall is being damaged by the relentless growth of vegetation caused by the silting up of the estuary. The ownership of the wall is currently unknown, but the local council (CWA) have confirmed that they will take responsibility for its maintenance. A survey of the state of the wall has been carried out by CWA with a view to determining what essential work needs to be carried out to stabilise the structure; this maintenance work is not yet complete. The Society's team of volunteers will be able to carry out periodic weed clearance, as necessary.



ACTIONS: (1) The Society to press the Council to complete the maintenance work on the structure; and (2) the Community Spirit Team to keep the state of the wall under observation and arrange further weeding as appropriate in the light of the findings of the survey.

The Parade:

The Parade forms the spine of the village, the only through route for traffic; virtually all its significant historic buildings are situated here on the landward side or are accessed from here. On the other side is the open marsh with wide vistas extending from the Point of Ayr and Hilbre Island via Halkyn Mountain and Moel Famau to Connah's Quay and Queensferry. It is a place where visitors flock to take in the air while they stroll its length, observe the birdlife, enjoy an ice-cream or just relax on the public seating, just as did their fashionable ancestors in the late Georgian and Victorian eras. The historic ambience is compromised to an extent by more recent developments, and we feel that opportunity should be taken in terms of street furniture to acknowledge the past; this would include the replacement of the existing concrete street lights by heritage posts with capacity for hanging baskets and the installation of up to six finger posts to give visitors directions to particular locations, e. g. public toilets, car parks, Parkgate School, St Thomas' Church, etc. We have offered to match fund with CWaC and Neston Town Council in order to provide this signage. The current traffic direction signs on The Parade also need rationalizing. The area in front of the Mostyn House apartments has looked neglected; options previously considered for this patch have narrowed; two new planters have been installed here, with a further two planned, costs to be shared with CWaC.



18th century buildings on The Parade



1930s art deco ice-cream shop



North side of Mostyn Square

ACTIONS: The Society (1) to discuss with CWaC the feasibility of providing new street lighting and furniture, including seating, and the design and commissioning of further interpretation boards; and to apply to Neston Town Council in due course for assistance with grant funding; and (2) to co-ordinate with CWaC the provision of two further planters to be installed in front of Mostyn House.

Mostyn House Chapel

Towards the end of the 19th century Mostyn House School was expanding rapidly under the leadership of AG Grenfell. In 1895 he commissioned the building of a new school chapel, the design based on the typical lay-out of an Oxbridge college chapel. Opened in 1897, it had a number of interesting features, including the stained-glass windows and, a later addition, a carillon of 37 bells, installed as a memorial to all the school's old boys who died while serving in the First World War. These bells are no longer heard in Parkgate, as following the school's closure they were bequeathed to Charterhouse School in Surrey, where they have been re-installed and can still be enjoyed. The chapel is now a grade II* listed building, but it is no longer open for use; the Society is concerned about its future and would like to see it brought back into occasional use for the benefit of the community. This might include concerts, other social events, meetings and/or public visits on heritage open days.



ACTION: The Society to continue to seek with relevant partners an arrangement by which the chapel can be opened for occasional use by the community.

The Station Road Car Park – now called the Ropewalk Car Park:

The most controversial issue in Parkgate was and remains the problem of car parking: there is just not enough of it, so congestion is any everyday occurrence on The Parade. The under-used facility at the Wirral Way car park in Station Road, barely 200m from The Parade has been redesigned to provide extra parking, with 4,000 spring bulbs planted in 2016. Two interpretation boards have been installed, along with the conversion of the WW2 pillbox as a haven for bats, but it is felt that an information point should also be provided here. The car park has been renamed following a pupil vote at Parkgate School.

Nearby, a planter has been installed in Station Road, along with further plants in the border near to the village sign and around the railway memorabilia at the end of the Rope Walk.

ACTIONS: The Society to co-operate with CWaC over the provision of an information board at this point.

The Marshes:

The marsh at Parkgate is a relatively recent feature; the grass began to appear just before the Second World War, about 80 years ago. Since then it has spread enormously, as the ground level has risen substantially with the continual deposit of silt. Now we have a vast expanse of tidal saltmarsh, which is owned by the RSPB; it is an ideal support for an abundance of birdlife, which feeds on the insects which thrive here, particularly the well-known Parkgate mosquito. The importance of this area for wildlife conservation and protection has been recognised by its designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and by its listing under the international Ramsar treaty; it is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Unfortunately, the high tides bring in a mass of debris, which is left behind on the ebb; and to this is added the litter left behind by unthinking visitors. Our Community Spirit team keep the area under observation and undertake regular litter picks in the area adjacent to the seawall. Mosquitos have long presented a great nuisance to residents and visitors alike, and working in partnership with CWaC and RSPB we have succeeded in providing some respite to the problem through regular clearing of drainage channels and the creation of a large new pond. It is hoped to provide further remission by adding more ponds in due course.

At times The Parade can be a very congested area with little room for traffic and visitors of all kinds. The marsh could offer an opportunity to disperse the crowds, if some public access could be devised, which would not compromise the welfare of the wildlife which inhabits it. In the neighbourhood plan the notion of a green beach adjacent to The Parade has been suggested; this could also encompass a boardwalk, which has also been mooted as a means of providing extra circulation space and greater proximity to the wildlife.



By the South Slip



The Marsh at Mostyn Square

ACTIONS: The Society (1) to continue to monitor the state of the marsh and undertake regular litter picking'; (2) to urge CWaC to provide adequate funding for combatting mosquito nuisance: maintaining the drainage channels and creating additional ponds; and (3) to collaborate with the Council over ideas to promote greater public access to the adjacent area of the marsh, including the feasibility of creating a boardwalk.

The Ropewalk and other local paths:

The Ropewalk is an ancient right of way; its name suggests that it was once a place where rope was made for the ships that were built or repaired in the shipyards which existed at Parkgate during the 18th century. From about 1814 to the mid-1970s it became known as Cheltenham Walk in recognition of its new role, following the demise of Parkgate as a port, as place where visitors could parade and socialise, if the weather on The Parade was not suitable for those activities. Today the Ropewalk is an important pathway, particularly for children walking to Parkgate School. There is, however, a continual problem of maintenance, as vegetation encroaches from neighbouring properties. Similar problems exist with the 'back path', which leads from Bevyl Road to Brooklands Road, and the unadopted path between Bevyl Road and The Looms. The 'cow path' between Brooklands Road and Wood Lane is often overgrown and needs more regular maintenance; brambles are a nuisance for pedestrians and cyclists.



The 'Back Path'



The 'Cow Path'

ACTIONS: The Society to discuss with CWaC the creation of a proper routine for monitoring the state of local paths and taking enforcement measures where appropriate.

The Ropewalk Garden:

The little garden on the corner with Station Road was established some years ago by a joint effort involving the Society, the local council and other groups, when a well-wisher donated a small railway trolley to remind passers-by that there was once a railway here, which conveyed traffic from the local coal mine at Little Neston. The Society has been involved in the maintenance of the area, with the planting of flowers, pruning of growth and weeding. We have also donated a bench in memory of our past Chairman Dr Geoffrey Place, and have recently replaced the small plaque which commemorates the original scheme. It is the Society's wish to install an interpretation board at this location describing impact of the railway on the subsequent development of Parkgate.



The Ropewalk Garden, Station Road

ACTIONS: The Society (1) to continue to monitor this little area and see to its maintenance, and (2) to discuss with CWaC ways and means of pressing forward with our aim of providing a new historical interpretation board at this location.

Ropewalk Park and Children's Play Area:

This is a nice and generally quiet open space surrounded by different types of housing and also backing onto the Parkgate School playing field; it is accessed from different areas via the Ropewalk and maintained by Neston Town Council. Adjacent to the northern boundary is a small area of allotments. The children's playground is well furnished with equipment and generally well used. A couple of benches have been installed in the main area, but it is not clear how much use they get.



The Ropewalk Park, with children's play area to left in distance.

ACTIONS: The Society's Community Spirit team to keep an eye on the litter situation.

Old Windmill, Leighton Road:

Leighton Mill on Leighton Road is a grade 2 listed building outside the Parkgate conservation area. Having been derelict for many years, during which time it lost its cap and sails, it was restored some year ago as a private home. A new cap, in the shape of an up-turned boat, was added by a former owner who was an artist in glass, and used it as his studio. It continues to be used as a private home. It has been suggested that the building might merit the installation of a historic plaque.



Two views of Neston windmill

ACTIONS: The Society to consider the proposal for a plaque at this location.

Moorside Lane:

Moorside Lane forms a section of the former boundary of the old Neston Park of the middle ages; it was also part of the original route from Neston to the gate of the park, which appears to have been at the seaward end of the lane. A small hamlet of houses dating from the Georgian period or earlier is to be found here, close to where the former medieval manor house was situated; this was leased in the late 17th century to a mariner Gawen Wade. Opposite the end of Old Quay Lane there once stood a house built in the 1670s by another mariner Samuel Matthews. Two of the remaining houses, clustered at the junction with Old Quay Lane, Moor End and Spring Vale, are Grade 2 listed, and may be of similar origin.



Spring Vale



Moor End

ACTIONS: None necessary, though the Society could look into the history of this little grouping of historic houses.

Leighton:

Leighton is the name of the old township adjoining Neston, in which the northern part of Parkgate lies; its historic centre lies at the bends on Leighton Road. Leighton Hall is no more, but its barn survives, converted into apartments, a grade 2* listed building situated at the junction with the Runnel. It was through the marriage of Bridget Savage, the heiress to the manor of Leighton, to her kinsman Sir Thomas Mostyn in 1672, that the ownership of Great Neston and Leighton, along with other estates in Cheshire, was transferred to the Mostyn family of Mostyn Hall, Flintshire. Also situated here, on the bends, is Leighton House, a substantial grade 2 listed property, dating from the early 18th century, now divided into two. The original road from Neston passed by adjacent to this house, and its diversion in the 18th century created the awkward bends we put up with now. Nowadays this route is taken by a lot of cyclists (and some walkers), for whom the blind bends constitute a real hazard.

ACTIONS: The Society to discuss with CWaC what can be done to ameliorate the traffic hazard at the Leighton Road bends.

The Wirral Way:

The Wirral Way was formally opened in 1973 as the first country park in Britain. It passes through Parkgate following the track-bed of the former railway line from Hooton to West Kirby, which closed in 1962. For the whole of its distance of 12 miles there is provision for walkers, cyclists and horse riding. It is well connected with other local pathways and is well-used by locals and by walking groups from elsewhere. Maintenance is carried out by the Council's Greenspace service, but in the Parkgate section there are problems of flooding at times of heavy rainfall, particularly near Boathouse Lane and into Station Road; this latter problem needs further investigation. It is generally necessary to keep the gullies free of debris so as to ensure that any floodwater can get away safely.



Near Station Road



Near Brooklands Road

ACTIONS: The Society to monitor the situation and report any impending problems to CWaC's Greenspace service.

Wood Lane:

The line of this ancient right of way identifies the eastern boundary of the former Neston hunting park; now an unadopted road, it appears to have once served as part of a direct route between Neston and Gayton. At the turn of the 20th century it extended from Neston only as far as the 'cow path', which is the extension of Brooklands Road and the northern boundary of the former park; it then provided access to just one house 'Belcarrig', later demolished to provide the site for the Paddock Drive development. It continued as a footpath only via Backwood Hall to Gayton village. The present lane is much used by walkers and cyclists, being part of cycle route 56. Adjacent to the west is a playing field and a former cow field, this now maintained as a public

open space by the Friends of Park Fields, awarded Green Flag status and also recognised with an award by the QE II Jubilee Trust.



Park Fields – a Green Flag recreational space



Wood Lane

Lack of maintenance of the lane has created a hazardous surface for cyclists and other users, and a short section has also become subject to serious flooding from an underground culvert in Brook Lane, effectively making the route impassable for walkers at times. Car parking in Wood Lane adjacent to the playing field has become a problem at certain times. This could be alleviated by the creation of additional off-road spaces at the Parkgate Road entrance to the field. Consideration is currently being given to upgrading the section between Earle Drive and Paddock Drive.

ACTIONS: The Society to monitor the situation and support schemes to address the problems identified.

The Green Belt:

The Cheshire Green Belt began to be developed during the 1960s and was formalised in Councils' local plans in the 1980s, the aim being to halt the encroachment into the Cheshire countryside of development arising from pressures in the neighbouring conurbations. Over 40% of Cheshire West falls within the green belt, and Neston is ringed by green belt land. The purpose in this locality is to maintain the open space between Neston and Heswall, and the presumption is that further housing and other development will not be permitted in the countryside. The Society is affiliated to Cheshire CPRE through its membership of the Wirral Society, and endorses this policy, which is an integral feature of both the Neston Neighbourhood Plan and the CWaC Local Plan; in the past we have objected to any development proposals which appeared to be contrary to these policies, and we will continue to do so.

ACTIONS: The Society to continue to encourage CWaC to uphold its policy with regard to the maintenance of the integrity of the Cheshire Green Belt, when taking decisions on development proposals, particularly affecting this locality.

The English Coastal Path:

This long-distance path, connecting with the Welsh Coastal Path at the national boundary near Burton, is planned to run as close as possible to the coast of the Wirral. Although it is possible to follow the coastline from the south end of The Parade to the Wirral Borough boundary at Gayton, there is still a missing section between The Parade and the bottom of Marshlands Road in Little Neston. Plans are afoot to reduce this gap, but it is unlikely, as things stand, because of ground conditions, that it will be possible to re-route the path to the seaward side of the housing in Manorial Road.



The English Coastal Path at Ness

ACTIONS: The Society to support the Council (CWaC) in its efforts to complete the Cheshire section of the Coastal Path.

Other Areas:

For local residents other areas of the village are just as important to them as those parts where visitors are concentrated. With council maintenance budgets under pressure, work schedules are reduced, litter appears to multiply, and weeds have the opportunity to prosper. Our Community Spirit Team is keeping these areas under observation and acting, as appropriate, to ensure that this natural growth is kept under control.

ACTIONS: The Society's Community Spirit Team to advise on problem areas and, where appropriate, carry out litter picks and trimming/weeding of inappropriate vegetative growth in liaison with CWaC, as appropriate.

Flower schemes:

From what has been stated above it will be clear that we support and sponsor schemes of planting in public areas. To date, with CWaC, we have sponsored the installation of new planters on The Parade, by the Middle Slip and in front of Mostyn House, and also in Mostyn Square and Station Road. Further locations for planters are being investigated. We also generally encourage schemes undertaken privately by individual property owners. We also work in close association here with the town council's Neston Greening Group.



Planting at Mostyn Square



The Middle Slip

ACTIONS: The Society, in partnership with the local councils, to investigate opportunities for further planting schemes.

Interpretation Boards:

In recognition of the fascinating history of Parkgate we have promoted a series of interpretation boards under the theme of 'Welcome to Parkgate', which tell the story of particular areas of the village. At the same time we have also installed heritage plaques at various properties which have an interesting story to tell; our heritage trail has been designed around these. Draft designs have been produced for installation at a number of other locations, as described in the preceding text and identified below.



One of the boards at the Donkey Stand



The story of the railway at Parkgate



The Grenfell plaque at Mostyn House
Parkgate's most famous son

ACTIONS: The Society, in collaboration with CWaC, to press ahead with the scheme to install further plaques at premises of historic interest and provide additional new interpretation boards at the Middle Slip, by the Boathouse and at the garden at the end of the Ropewalk, possibly also at the Old Baths, together with an information board at the Ropewalk Car Park.

Conclusion:

These ideas have been formulated by the Parkgate Society as a vision of work required mainly, but not exclusively, to bring the old seafront of the ancient port of Parkgate up to standard for local residents and the many tourists who visit Parkgate, because of its history and because of its views and the interesting bird life on the protected marshes. It is as a result of these features that we have the Parkgate conservation area as the

focus of our village and the Deeside coastal area designated as a 'site of special scientific interest' (SSSI) and an 'area of special county value' for landscape (ASCV); the Deeside estuary is also designated as a Ramsar wetland under the international treaty of that name. We are proud to live in an area of such remarkable character and are committed to do our best to ensure the long-term survival of all the special features that we enjoy today.



The South Parade

If you wish to make any comments on this 'Vision', or would like to highlight a particular issue with the Parkgate Society, please contact the Secretary on 0151-336-2917 or email secretary@parkgatesociety.co.uk

If you would like to help us implement 'Our Vision for Parkgate' why not join the Parkgate Society. In addition to our conservation work we have regular monthly meetings for all members during autumn and spring at Neston Cricket Club, when speakers present talks on subjects of mainly local interest. Details available from our Membership Secretary Derek Haylock, tel: (0151) 336 4461, email: membership@parkgatesociety.co.uk

Notes