



Penkhull Residents Association

Annual General meeting 7:00 pm, 18th April 2024 Chairs' Report

A Residents' Association is an organisation formed by people from a specific geographic community who come together to address issues within their local area and act as a voice for their local community. The aims of the Penkhull Residents Association can be summarised as:

- Keeping residents informed about what's going on in Penkhull
- Listening to what residents say about issues that affect them
- Supporting residents on issues where appropriate
- Promoting community life and enhancing our environment

This report covers the main topics discussed by the PRA committee from November 2023 to April 2024.



PRA Committee members Gwen and Steve Rylands' dog at the Croft on a nice frosty morning

About me

I'm Dr John Chinn, and together with Dr Mark Mabey I am pleased to tell you that we have become Co-Chairmen of the Penkhull Residents' Association Committee, taking over from the sterling work that Dr Charles Pantin did for nine years.

I firmly believe that Penkhull is a super place and myself and my wife Tasha have lived here for 25 years. I am fully committed to doing my very best for the PRA.

I've been attending committee meetings for coming on for seven years and have been involved in a many of the projects for the committee, even before I was elected as a member in 2020.

All residents are invited to our monthly residents' meetings which are on the 3rd Monday of each month, at 7:30pm, apart from August and December, in the Studio (side entrance) of the Penkhull Village Hall. So please come along and see what we do, have your say, and get involved.

We welcome all residents to their Annual General Meeting, at 7:00 pm on the 18th April in the Village Hall. Come and meet the committee and see what we do for you.

John

Please feel free to contact me on penkhull.ra.archive.1@gmail.com Our WebSite is www.penkhull.org

Committee from November 2023

Joint Chairs : Mark Mabey and John Chinn, **Secretary**: Janet Wakefield, **Treasurer**: Mike Allen,

Committee: Mike Willis, Karen Jones, Dave Hindle, Dave Chadwick, Jayne Deaville, Graham Fletcher, Stephanie Brown, Mathew Oxby, Bruce Jarvest, Gwen Rylands, Steven Rylands.

Committee members are elected for 3 years with maximum membership of 9 years.

Nominations and Elections for PRA committee Members

What about you?

Penkhull is a lovely place to live overall. We're lucky in where we live, but it isn't an accident that it's like this. It's because, over the years, many residents have got involved and made things happen.

We have people in the village involved in community activities such as picking up litter, looking after our older residents, joining campaigns to preserve village lifestyles under threat and much more.

We would love to hear different ideas from Penkhull residents about the village. We are keen to promote any events/activities and encourage everyone to become involved in what's going on. We are delighted that much goes on without direct involvement of the PRA committee.

Please get in touch if you want to be involved or have any ideas or queries – we would love to hear from you.

You may self-nominate for the committee at any time and also do so during the AGM.

This year we are losing our wonderful Secretary Janet Wakefield. And so we especially need one or two people to step in to replace Janet as **secretary**. *All committee members support one and other and also Janet is willing to assist the person(s) for the first few months as well.*

Martin Wakefield has been **editing, and publishing the Penkhull Recorder** for many years now but is stepping down in 2024. Bruce Jarvest has offered to take up the baton and run our local news Journal, together with a few of us willing minions.

Mike Willis will be stepping down after his nine years of service at the April AGM. Mike wholly ran the organisation of the Zoom links that we were all so reliant on over all those meetings during the Covid years.

Councillors and officials of Stoke-on-Trent Council

Our wonderful Councillor, for Penkhull and Springfields, Councillor Sarah Hill, will have been in place for around a year in May, and we congratulate her, for all the wonderful work that she does for us.

The committee is often in touch with council officers who are always helpful, we thank them all, especially PRA council liaison officer from 2022 to 2023, Charlotte Eccles. Without their support, less would be accomplished.

Community

Village Hall (Penkhull Village Hall Community Trust)

The hall continues to grow as the hub of the village and hosts a tremendous variety of classes, parties, fairs and opportunities.

You can relax with tai chi , yoga and meditation or be more active with [Doomsday Morris](#) and Ju-Jitsu.

There are 15 different regular classes , the latest being Dizzy Heights youth club.

For those with a little time to spare, there is a maintenance team who meet once a month and always welcome a new face.

The community café goes from strength to strength on a Thursday and 60 / 70 people regularly turn up for lunch and to chat.

All details are on the web site: penkhull.org

Many thanks to the hall volunteers who give so unstintingly of their skills, time, and financial and in-kind support.



Development of St.Peter's Way on the old school site

A plaque was unveiled at the former school housing development on Wednesday 13th March by the former Head Master, Don Titley, and the deputy Head Mistress, Elizabeth Leslie. They commented: "Thank you for all the thought and planning, the unveiling of the St.Peters rock and plaque meant a lot to us".

There were around 50 people in attendance including former pupils, residents and past and present PRA members.

During the site's development Chris Preece acted as coordinator between the site management and the residents' association and developed a good rapport with Ben Tunstall, the site manager.

The memorial stone and plaque idea came out of the PRA committee and Dean Richardson, after much work, arranged for council to provide a stone.

The negotiation to site the stone, the historical research, proving the provenance, wording and mounting the plaque and organising the unveiling were all undertaken by members of the PRA committee.

Martin Wakefield sourced and provided the plaque.



Penkull Fun Day

Karen Jones is considering organising a fun day for the summer of 2025. There will be various activities and stalls. This will be discussed further at our May meeting on 20th at 7:30pm in the village Hall side entrance. Would you like to help Karen?

A Parish Council for Penkull?

Also in our May meeting, Bruce Jarvest will talk about some of the benefits of Penkull having its own council budget and its own local governing body.

A New Notice Board for the Village

Some of you will have noticed that we now have a new notice board on the wall of the Penkull Christian Fellowship (now called Light Church), at the junction of Newcastle Lane and St Thomas' Place. Many thanks to Mike Allen for organising this out of the PRA budget, to everyone who helped to install it and to Terry Hitchen who will be the go-to person to get notices posted up.

Buildings and Planning

Penkhull Farm Development

Many people will have noticed that the housing development of the Penkhull Farm site has not restarted. Apparently there are still many issues for the Council to deal with in regards to planning permission as the Farm house and barn are listed buildings, even though they have been derelict for over 30 years and are clearly crumbling. Neighbours' concerns have been taken into account and the consultation stage has been complete for some months now.

There have been concerns that the Excel Development are no longer properly registered with Companies House, but these have now been assuaged by council officer Tom Coates and the development should go ahead as planned, at some stage.

Donald Bates Home

The owners of the former Donald Bates home, on the corner of Garden St and Manor Court Street, have agreed with our Councilor Sara Hill, to consider selling the site on now for development.

Project Star: (Grindley Hill Multi-Storey Car Park along Hilton Road)

The work on site is almost complete, with the car park due to open officially on 29 April 2024. The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on 24 April. Currently, the road surfacing of the site is taking place, and the blue fencing is erected.

Once this new car park is up and running the Royal Infirmary site will be free to be developed for housing.

Penkhull Infants/ Penkhull Education Centre (corner of Greatbatch Avenue and St Thomas' Place)

Unfortunately there has been no interest in anyone taking on this building. The Penkhull Christian Fellowship did show an interest at one point, but it transpires that an estimate for refurbishment would be of the order of £7m, which is, of course, off-putting for anyone.

When I was on the Willows School Board, ten years ago, the original council plan was to knock it all down. And to this end all the internal wood paneling was sold off, leaving the place in a mess. Then it was decided to make it a listed building.

The Penkhull Service station and parents of children at the Willows school use the grounds for parking and have reported significant pot holes occurring now on the site.

The Croft

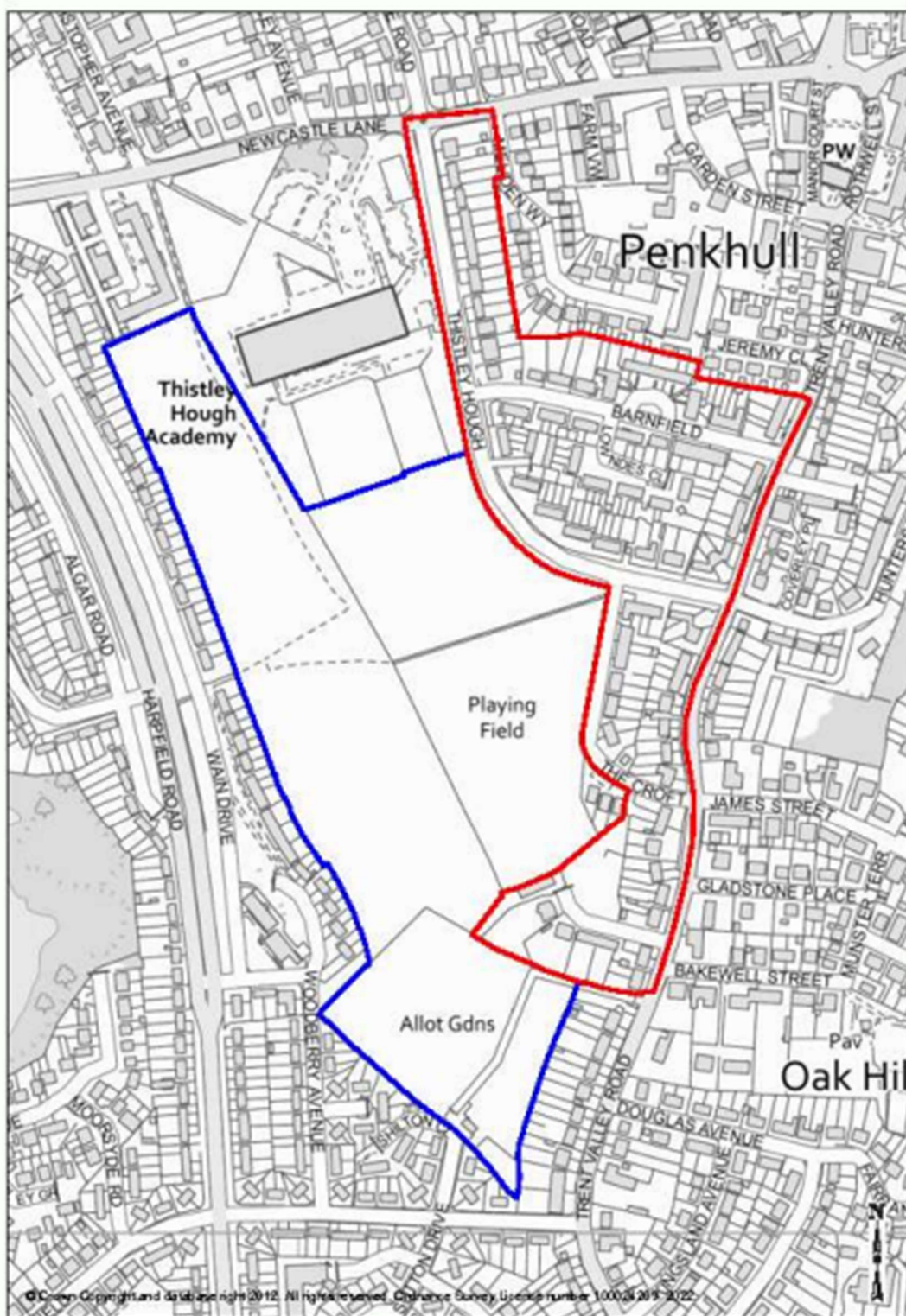
As of 18 months ago the Croft has still not been fully ratified as part of the conservation area of Penkhull. See the map over the page. The PRA remains vigilant.

Other matters

Other matters that the PRA are discussing at the meetings include

- The PRA's own financial position
- Possible further Funding sources for the PRA
- A committee WhatsApp Group
- A Data-Archive for the PRA (we've been running for many years now)
- The notion of a small 20 mph zone including the schools and village centre
- Defibrillators at strategic points in the village centre
- The idea of making Boon Avenue one-way
- Police Matters. We have PCSOs Vicky Lacy and Sherrat at our meetings to discuss crime reports
- Car parking issues around the Willows School at pick-up and drop-off times
- Grit bin and litter bin placements around the village
- Where to place a mobile phone mast in Penkhull
- This list changes all the time

The illustrative map below shows the existing and proposed Conservation Area. The **red line** shows the existing/ current boundary of the Conservation Area and the **blue line** indicates the proposed alterations. An interactive map is also available at [Stoke-on-Trent City Council Constraints Maps](#).



Communications

The most important thing which your PRA can do is to listen to residents and tell them what is going on

By open meetings

All meetings of the committee of the Penkhull Residents Association are open to residents to attend. The meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Studio at the Village Hall

By working with its partners

The committee liaises closely with its local city councillor, city council officers, local schools, and neighbouring residents' associations

By phone

The chair's phone number is advertised. The 2024 chair's telephone number: 07506720493

By leaflet

If an item arises relevant to residents and requiring quick consultation, the committee will put leaflets through the doors of the affected residents. Often, a meeting will be arranged for the residents to attend if they wish

By noticeboard

The village noticeboard is updated regularly

By the Penkhull Recorder

The editor is Martin Wakefield. It is delivered three times a year to all homes in Penkhull. Volunteers to deliver in their street are very welcome. With ideas or items for the recorder please contact

penkhullrecordereditor@gmail.com

By e-mail

There is an e-mail address for residents to contact. Those agreeing to join a database are reminded of meetings and other information. If you would like to be added to the database, please contact

penkhull.ra.archive.1@gmail.com

By website

The Penkhull website www.penknull.org is the main source of information about the village

By Facebook link

News items are posted on the PRA Facebook page: [Facebook@Penkhullpra](https://www.facebook.com/Penknullpra) and [Penkhull Now and Then](https://www.facebook.com/PenknullNowandThen)