

## **Society, Community and Culture**

Broughton has a population of approximately 1722 living in 712 dwellings in an area of 549 hectares. The current main centre of population is the area to the north of the motorway with 83% of the population living there. The second area is to the south east on the south side of the motorway. Once the developments with planning permission are in place this will increase the housing stock to 1216 with a possible population of 2500. The concentration of population will then be equal between the current north crossroads area and the south side of the Parish near to the Motorway junction.

### **Religious Establishments**

The Parish is served by an Anglican Church about 500 yards from the centre of the village. The Church has a number of organisations affiliated to it including an active choir who participate in community activities, together with scouts and guides who meet in their own premises nearby. The point to make here is that although the population of Broughton is covered the users of the church and its affiliated organisations come from the wider district of North Preston. There are currently no other religious establishments from other faiths within the parish boundary.

### **Education**

There is a pre-school nursery situated near to the centre of Broughton village which provides child care for pre-school age children. This is an essential facility for working parents not only within the parish boundary but extending into adjacent Preston wards. There is also a small pre-school at Fernyhalgh.

The parish is served by one Church of England Primary School situated adjacent to the Church. It is an outstanding school with just over 200 places and is well over subscribed currently taking children from a wider catchment area than the Parish boundary. The building of additional homes within the Parish, especially within the Broughton South district, will put severe strain on places. This is replicated within adjacent wards where new housing developments are putting additional pressure on similar primary schools nearby. There is no state Primary school within the Parish boundary and there may be a case to consider the building of a new Primary School to cope with the extra demand that will come with the new homes being built within the Parish boundaries.

There is a state High School within the village near to the centre of Broughton. This is an outstanding school with 900 students emanating from a wide area of

North Preston. The school is over-subscribed with three times the number of applicants than places. Data from the local schools and the population projections show that approximately 80 per cent of primary school children travel out of the village to school in Barton, Fulwood and Woodplumton and 40 per cent of secondary school children travel out of Broughton village to Fulwood and various direct grant and public schools. The playing fields attached to the High School suffer from poor drainage. Again additional housing with the Parish boundary and adjacent wards within Preston will put additional strain on places. There are extensive sports facilities available at the High School, however, there is little use made of them by local community groups.

### **Health Facilities**

There are currently no GP practises located within the Parish boundary. However, there is one planned to be built within the new build area south of the M55. The opportunity to access this facility to the existing residents will be a welcome addition. 81 per cent of residents in the Neighbourhood survey stated that they would like to see a local GP practice.

Residents do have access to a private dental practice within the village as well as physiotherapy services. The main NHS hospital is situated in the adjacent ward to the parish.

### **Leisure and Recreation Facilities**

Fulwood & Broughton Cricket Club is situated at the southern boundary of the Parish and has a thriving juniors and senior club that has recently obtained planning permission for a second playing area and extension to club facilities. The cricket club is perhaps typical of many community organisations in that it is located well outside of Broughton Village centre and Broughton forms a small part of its wider catchment taking in the whole of Fulwood and Broughton. Church, School, Sports and Social Club facilities are also dispersed across the parish rather than in Broughton Village with a much wider catchment that dwarfs the resident population of the village.

There is a private gymnasium attached to the Marriott Hotel that can be accessed by the local community. There is a cost to this membership and it would appear that members do come from a wide catchment area to access these facilities.

There are public playing fields near to the centre of Broughton village which incorporates a children's play area. The fields lack adequate drainage, changing facilities and the play area needs updating to meet modern standards. This area of the village could be redevelopment using public monies to become a focal area for residents. It would also need substantial investment to bring the facilities up-to-date so that they could be used by local community groups who currently have to use such facilities outside the Parish boundary.

Broughton District Sports and Social Club is a private club which has extensive tennis and bowls facilities which can be accessed by the local community. There are currently 5 tennis courts with permission granted for another 2. The club also offers facilities for badminton, bridge, darts and snooker. Whilst this is located within the centre of the village it is currently restricted to members of the club. A local post office is currently run from the main hall two days a week.

There are currently many opportunities to cycle and walk through attractive open countryside afforded by the Guild Wheel and local public rights of way within the village boundaries. Future development that restricts such activities would not be appropriate for the village residents or visitors as this would remove the rural setting of such footpaths and cycle tracks.

### **Community Facilities**

Broughton village has a local public house with a restaurant attached located in the centre of the village. It does not have a local village store, although it is served by two local petrol stations with basic shop facilities. Respondents to the Neighbourhood survey were overwhelmingly in favour of a local shop facility (85%). Whilst this is a commercial decision future plans within the Neighbourhood plan should support the building of such a facility within the village centre, whether this be a local village shop or café where people can meet.

Broughton village, unlike similar rural villages locally, lacks a community meeting facility. 42 per cent of Neighbourhood survey respondents supported the idea of a village hall being built near to the centre to enhance village facilities. Broughton Sports and Social Club does have a purpose built hall with adequate parking facilities near to the centre which does suit such a facility. The Parish Council are currently in discussion with the Club's management committee on how this idea can be taken forward. An alternative would be to use public money to build a local village hall. This would be a major project with significant costs and planning issues involved. It would require community buy in to ensure successful completion and sustainability.

### **Transport Issues**

There is currently a by-pass being built within the Parish boundary and once complete it will ease the current traffic congestion on the A6. There are also plans to redevelop the A6 from the motorway to the Village centre which will enhance the look of the village and provide safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists using this part of Preston Guild Wheel.

There is also major development underway within the southern area of the Parish boundary just south of the M55. Various community facilities are planned within these developments including a doctor's surgery, shop and open green spaces. It will be a challenge to ensure that people residing in these homes feel part of Broughton's community. Adequate footpath links and cycle routes should assist and future plans should ensure that residents can walk and cycle between different parts of the village. In particular residents in the Neighbourhood survey felt that the Guild Wheel should be preserved and protected in its current form.

### **Summary**

The plan area as a whole has a wide range of community facilities, however:-

- these are scattered across the area rather than grouped in the centre of the village
- they tend to cater for a wider catchment taking in heavily populated parts of Fulwood within Preston's Urban Area.
- There are significant gaps/deficiencies in provision particularly close to Broughton Village (e.g. lack of a village hall and good sports pitches) that limit both current activity and the establishment of new local clubs and groups.

Together with the absence of key local commercial facilities within the village, such as a local store, post office, and café this impacts on the opportunities for village residents to come together and is an obstacle to development of the strong community identity enjoyed by many other villages.