

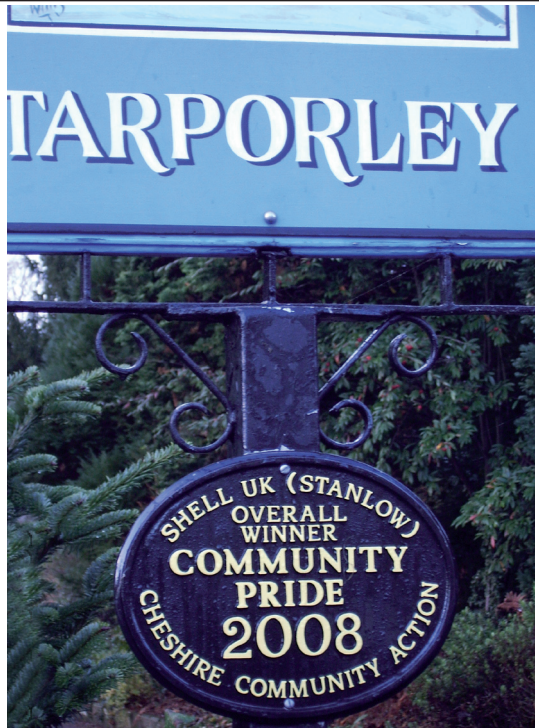
THE TARPORLEY PARISH COUNCIL PAGE

Proud Community?

NOW that the euphoria of winning the 2008 Community Pride competition has subsided, what next? As far as the competition is concerned, the aim is to win our category for the next two years to earn an Award for Excellence. Better still, we could aim to keep winning the overall competition. What we must avoid is to slide back down the table through complacency. So please let us be on our toes this year, especially during the judging period of May to August.

Harking back to the earlier name for the competition, Best Kept Village, you may think "Aren't there much more important things to be done?" The answer lies in the change of name – It is about much more than how pretty a village looks; rather the things that make it a pleasant and rewarding place to live and work. This comes through in the assessment of a whole range of categories from the appearance of the shops and their window displays to the notices on the notice boards. So the task of getting things right involves the whole community; Parish Council, traders, residents; and itself serves as a vehicle for improvement.

One route to facilitating improvements in the village is through an amenity society. The formation of such a society is one of the targets in the Parish Plan, which recognised the benefits of a focussed residents' group in attracting a range of



expertise and also having access to funding not available to the Parish Council.

The logical way forward would be to form a civic society. Guidance and assistance in this is readily available from the Civic Trust and affiliation to the trust brings many advantages. Perhaps the conventional view might be that civic societies are for much larger communities but this is not so, local examples being Audlem and Great Budworth.

Civic Societies are not only about action in the community; there is also a social aspect that may include talks, visits, dinners etc.. So, if you are interested in the formation of a civic society, which could be confined to Tarporley or cover the wider area, please contact the Parish Clerk, who will forward your details.