



# BREWOOD & COVEN PARISH COUNCIL with Bishop's Wood & Coven Heath

Newsletter

Autumn 2014

## Your Councillors:

### Bishop's Wood:

Jan Jeffries (Vice Chair)  
01785 841156  
John Pegg  
01785 840404

### Brewood:

Andrew Ball 850435  
David Evans 851326  
Anne Holmes 850611  
George Martin 850713  
Richard Taylor 850594  
Mac Webb MBE 850671

### Coven:

(Chair)  
Moir Alden-Court  
703528  
Janet Carr 791443  
Richard Dakin 850938  
Lena Holmes 790066  
Glen Sibley 790059  
Vacancy

### Coven Heath:

Linda Tomkins 786008

### District Councillors:

Brian Cox 01785 840482  
Mike Hampson 850562  
Anne Holmes 850611  
Wendy Sutton 851682

### County Councillor:

Mark Sutton 851682

## The scheduled meetings of the Parish Council this quarter are:

30 Oct  
13 & 27 November  
11 December

Council meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, 35 Stafford Street, Brewood and include a 15 minute public participation session at the start of each meeting, members of the public are encouraged to attend.

## Standing for Election?

Have you ever thought of helping your local community by standing as a parish councillor?

The next local election will take place on **7 May 2015**. Parish Councillors will be elected for four years until the next local election is held. The Parish Council meets on the second and last Thursday of each month from 7.30pm until about 9.30pm.

If you're wondering what the Council does, the best way to find out is to read the agendas which can be found on Parish Council notice-boards in each village, and attend our meetings. Alternatively, you can visit the Parish Council website at: [www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk](http://www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk) where the minutes of previous meetings, newsletters and much more information about the Council is available.

Being a Parish Councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it an even better place to live and work. Parish Councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public.

Why don't you stand for your Parish Council and see what difference you can make to your local community?

**Information on the process of standing for election is available from the Clerk or by speaking to any of your Parish Councillors.**

## Site Allocation Consultation Update and Further Developments

You may have seen on our Facebook page and the previous issue of the Newsletter that three further sites have been put forward to South Staffordshire Council by local land owners in connection with the site allocation; one at Horsebrook Lane, Brewood, one at School Lane, Coven and one at Four Ashes. Consultation on these sites ended on 7 October and we await further details from South Staffordshire Council. We will inform you of the outcome as soon we have the information.

In addition to that, we have received notification that similar consultation will take place on the need to provide pitches for Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Public consultation commenced on 13 October and will continue until 24 November 2014. Details of the sites are available at the Parish Council offices and also on South Staffordshire Council's offices and on their website at [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/siteallocations](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/siteallocations). Information is also available at libraries and leisure centres in the district.

## **New Councillors for Coven**

Over the summer two new Members were co-opted onto the Parish Council; Mrs Lena Holmes and Mr Glen Sibley. Their contact details are at the front of the newsletter.

**IF YOU REQUIRE THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGE PRINT PLEASE PHONE 01902 850809**

## Your Community Rights Under The Localism Act 2011

**What are Community Rights?** The Community Rights are a set of powers that give you a greater say over how your community develops. They can help you to save local shops, pubs, libraries, parks and football grounds. You can decide what is built and how the area should develop. Groups of people have the chance to deliver local services and develop them into community enterprises.

**There are four Community Rights:** The new Rights contained within the Localism Act came into effect in 2012 devolving power from government to communities, local authorities and individuals.

### 1. Community Right to Bid

You can use the Community Right to Bid to 'pause' the sale of a building or land you care about, giving your community time to develop a bid to buy it. There are grants available for the community ownership and management of assets.

- **Assets of Community Value**

Under Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011, local authorities are required to maintain a list of assets of community value.

- **What is Community Asset Transfer?** Local authorities are empowered to transfer the ownership of land and buildings to communities for less than their market value. This is known as 'discounted asset transfer' or 'asset transfer'. This shift in ownership of land and buildings from public bodies to communities is Localism in action, giving greater powers to:
  - community and voluntary sector organisations
  - community and social enterprises
  - individuals looking to form a not-for-private-profit group to benefit their neighbourhood

Community asset transfer can help deliver a variety of benefits but, in short, it is a key way in which local authorities can support the development of a strong and vibrant civil society through improvements to an organisation's sustainability.

### 2. Community Right to Build

The Right to Build gives communities the power to build new shops, housing or community facilities without going through the normal planning process.

Community Right to Build is an enabling Right supporting local people to undertake development so that communities are collectively owning, developing and/or managing their own land and developments. As an alternative to the traditional application for planning permission, it gives communities the power to decide for themselves what happens in their neighbourhood. The Community Right to Build forms part of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations made following the Localism Act 2011. Communities will be able to build:

- family homes to sell on the open market
- affordable housing for rent or to convert disused farm buildings into affordable homes
- sheltered housing for elderly local residents
- low cost starter homes for young local families struggling to get on the housing ladder
- facilities such as a new community centre or a children's playground

It depends entirely what local people decide their community needs. The benefits of these developments, such as any profits generated, will be managed by a community organisation on behalf of the whole community. Financial support is available.

### 3. Community Right to Challenge

It enables communities to challenge to take over local services that they think they can run differently and better. The Right to Challenge could be used to run a wide range of local services. A challenge will be considered by a local authority and may be accepted or rejected, but if it is accepted does not mean you will necessarily get to run the service as the council would have to run a tendering exercise which anyone can bid for, including the private sector. The Right applies to services being delivered by local authorities and fire and rescue services. Grants are available to help groups get ready to run public services.

### 4. Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood planning powers give people the chance to decide how their local area should develop and what should be built. You have the chance to choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built. Grants and direct support is available to assist groups.

Visit the website to find out more: [mycommunityrights.org.uk](http://mycommunityrights.org.uk)



### Film Nights at the Jubilee Hall

After a false start to the new film season, things are now underway. Please take a look at the Parish Council noticeboard for the latest attractions.

The organisers need good attendance at each film showing in order to continue and so your support is very important. All proceeds from film nights go towards the upkeep of the Jubilee Hall.

### The Bront Trim Trail Equipment

Those of you who use The Bront, which is off Poplars Farm Way in Coven, will have seen the wooden 'trim trail' equipment which was installed by the Parish Council around six years ago. Sadly most of the wooden structure is showing signs of wood rot and general wear in many places. The Council is considering removing and replacing the equipment. We would very much like your views on this and would ask you to contact us with any ideas that you may have for the type of equipment that we could install.

### Coven Lunch Club

An Over 60s lunch club is held at Coven Court the first Sunday in every month. Contact Moira 01902 703528 or Pam 01902 790421

### Parish Guide

#### A Message to Local Businesses and Event Organisers

At the end of 2014 a new parish guide will be produced and delivered on behalf of the Parish Council. It is an opportunity for local businesses to advertise parish-wide and beyond as a copy of the guide will be delivered to every household in Brewood, Coven, Bishop's Wood and Coven Heath. Copies of the guide are also circulated around the shops, pubs restaurants etc. in the villages to be taken away by tourists. For the first time the guide will be available on line and can be downloaded to ipads, iphones, tablets and android phones via a free app and there will be a free hyperlink for all advertisers. The guide also provides the opportunity to publish information about regular local events that happen in our community. Local businesses will shortly be contacted by the company commissioned to print the guide 'Local Authority Publishing', who will advise you of the cost of advertising. If you organise an event or have any photographs that you would like included, please contact the Clerk or upload photographs to our Facebook page and we will forward them on to the publisher.

**SMALL BUSINESS**  
**SATURDAY**<sup>®</sup>  
**6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

See Parish Council notice boards for more details.



### Christmas Lights Switch On Events

This year's events will take place on the following dates:

**Brewood:** Sunday 30 November at 3.00pm

**Bishop's Wood:** Friday 5 December at 6.30pm

**Coven:** Sunday 7 December 5.00pm

**Coven Heath:** Saturday 6 December at 6.30pm

### Christmas Day Lunch in Coven

There will be a home cooked six course  
 Christmas Day Lunch  
 at Coven Court  
 on Christmas Day at 1.00pm  
 £15.00 per head  
 (available to anyone in Coven)

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment

Please call Moira on 01902 703528 or  
 Pam on 01902 790421

### Speeding Restrictions in Bishop's Wood

With the help of County Councillor Mark Sutton, and following lobbying by the Parish Council, there have been a number of improvements made to the roads in and around Bishop's Wood. Speeding restrictions are now in place to limit motorists to 30 miles per hour. Some parishioners have been trained in the use of speedwatch devices and they have been active in reducing the speed of some vehicles through the village. The final improvements have been agreed and roundels have been painted on the road surfaces at most entrances to Bishop's Wood, reminding motorists of the 30 mile per hour limit. We are grateful to Staffordsire County Council for its assistance.

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### Best Kept Village Results

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who was involved in this year's Best Kept Village Competition, the results of which were announced in August are shown below.

#### Large Village

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kinver
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Brewood
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wombourne

#### Small Village

- 1<sup>st</sup> Acton Trussell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bednall
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bishops Wood

The organisers would very much like to encourage new volunteers to help with next year's competition. If you are able to help in any way, please contact the Parish Council for details.

The Parish Council would also like to thank Brewood Civic Society for the Hanging Basket Competition. These beautiful floral displays greatly enhance the attractiveness of the village during the summer months.

### Ice Busters Scheme

With winter approaching, volunteers are needed to help their communities deal with snow and ice on footways and pedestrian routes. The Ice Busters Scheme is an initiative driven by Stafford County Council. Volunteers are asked to clear a designated area of ground of ice and snow during the winter months.

If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact your local Community Highway Liaison team on 0300 111 8000. With their support and direction an action plan will be drawn up and agreed. The plan should include information on:-

- Your contact details
- Which footways are to be treated and under what conditions they will be treated
- How the decision is made to treat the area
- The chosen treatment, and how it will be applied
- Storage details

### The Good Samaritan Clause

One of the great misconceptions, is that we can be liable for the consequences of any voluntary acts on our part. During winter 2009/10 advice was given on television and radio to householders not to clear the snow in front of their properties in case any passerby would fall and then sue. There is no liability in the normal way, and the Lord Chief Justice himself is reported as saying that he had never come across a case where someone was sued in these circumstances. This idea may deter people from engaging in organised voluntary activities in the mistaken belief that they can be sued should anything go wrong. People who seek to do good in our society should not fear litigation as a result of their actions.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

#### Council Office:

35 Stafford Street,  
Brewood,  
ST19 9DX  
Tel. 01902 850809

Open 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Monday to Friday.

**Clerk: Maggie O'Brien.**

**Assistant Clerk: Pending Appointment.**

Voluntary Car Scheme  
Tel. 01902 851786  
Open 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Monday to Friday

**Car Scheme Co-ordinator:  
Claire Macquarie.**

### Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

With effect from 20 October there are new powers for the Police and local authorities to use with regard to anti-social behaviour. ASBOs and other Orders and notices have been replaced with six new Powers, making it easier and quicker to deal with offenders and also to provide better support for victims. In addition, there are two new 'tools' to improve accountability; the Community Trigger and the Community Remedy. A Community Trigger is a mechanism for victims to require action, once a Community Trigger is reached. The Powers are far too wide for it to be covered in any detail here but further information will be available on South Staffordshire Council and Staffordshire Police websites in due course. You can also contact the Parish Council for more details.

#### Email the Parish Council:

[brewoodparish@btconnect.com](mailto:brewoodparish@btconnect.com)

#### Website:

[www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk](http://www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk);

**Find us on Facebook**

Staffordshire County Council maintains the network of highways throughout Staffordshire, with responsibility for roads and pavements.

**Please report problems such as pot holes, street lights, blocked gullies to: 0300 111 8000, email: [highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk) or report online at: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)**