



BREWOD & COVEN PARISH COUNCIL with Bishop's Wood & Coven Heath

Newsletter

October 2015

Your Councillors:

Bishop's Wood:

Jan Jeffries (Chair) 01902
851831
Mary Sambrook
01785 841398

Brewood:

David Evans 851326
Anne Holmes 850611
Kevin Kearney 850336
Wendy Sutton 851682
Richard Taylor 850594
Mac Webb MBE 850671

Coven:

Moira Alden-Court
703528
Janis Bradshaw 791435
Janet Carr 791443
Richard Dakin 850938
Lena Holmes 790066
Glen Sibley 790059

Coven Heath:

Linda Tomkins (Vice Chair)
786008

District Councillors:

Joyce Bolton 851079
Brian Cox 01785 840482
Anne Holmes 850611
Wendy Sutton 851682

County Councillor:

Mark Sutton 851682

The scheduled meetings of the Parish Council for this year are:

29 October, 12 & 26
November 10 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.

Small Business Saturday 5th December

Be part of South Staffordshire's big celebration of small businesses.

For the third year in a row, Small Business Saturday is returning to South Staffordshire in 2015 as part of the nationwide celebration of local independent business on Saturday 5th December.

This is a grass-roots campaign that highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities. Support can be as simple as meeting friends for a meal at your local restaurant or pub, or buying a joint of meat from your local butchers.

98% of enterprises in South Staffordshire are classed as small businesses and provide 78% of jobs within the region, making them an integral part of our local economy.

Businesses can take part for FREE. Last year **Aston's in Coven** saw Small Business Saturday raise community awareness of their products and brought in new customers who continued to support them throughout the New Year. You too could see a rise in customer footfall and increased takings in the long term.

Do you run a small business and want to get involved with Small Business Saturday UK 2015? South Staffordshire Council will be providing FREE support and promotion to those who take part, along with a FREE trial for the Good Life Deals App.

Register your interest with the Council today for FREE at: www.sstaffs.gov.uk/sbs

Advance Notice

Brewood Junior Football Club and Brewood Cricket Club will be having an Open Day next year for girls who are interested in football or cricket.

Details will be announced nearer the time.

Christmas Lights Switch On Dates:

Bishop's Wood - 5.00pm on 5 December

Brewood - 4.00pm on 29 November

Coven Heath - 6.30pm on 5 December

Coven – no event planned this year

A Village Sign for Coven

Coven Best Kept Village team believes that there are now sufficient funds available to finalise this long term project. As you will be aware, Coven won the best kept village competition for a number of successive years and was awarded prize money as a result. The prize money has been saved up and will be put towards this worthwhile venture. The sign will be situated on the grassed area at the top of Lawn Lane and will be cast in iron. If you have any ideas on how to depict Coven past and present on the sign, please contact Yvonne Millward on 01902 798098.

Ideas will then be discussed so that the makers can produce a draft design for approval.

IF YOU REQUIRE THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGE PRINT PLEASE CALL 01902 850809

Site Allocation Update

South Staffordshire Council is currently working towards the selection of new housing sites, extensions to some of its strategic employment sites, and identifying extra Gypsy and Traveller pitches for future development in South Staffordshire. It published initial options for consultation in 2014 and are now narrowing these options down to those that are thought to be the most suitable to meet local needs.

What is the Site Allocations Document or 'SAD'?

SSC has undertaken the initial evaluations and site assessments and has been in contact with a number of site promoters and agents for further information to select the most suitable sites. The Council had hoped that these discussions would have been completed and final recommendations made to Members in August/September. However, discussions are still ongoing and there are still some studies and assessments which have not yet been finalised.

The Government has also made a number of changes to planning policy and guidance which needed to be taken on board, including revisions to national Gypsy and Traveller planning policy. As a result of these changes, South Staffordshire Council has to re-examine the work carried out so far, to ensure it complies with the new guidance.

Unfortunately this means that the timetable for the publication of the Preferred Options has slipped. Everyone wants to know which sites have been chosen as soon as possible and they are working hard to publish the Preferred Options SAD in December 2015. There are difficult decisions to be taken across the District in balancing the need for new homes, jobs and Gypsy pitches with the protection of the Green Belt. It is very important that sufficient time be taken to consider all of the issues and evidence, and sometimes this does mean a delay in the process to ensure the right outcome.

Public Consultation

The next stage of the SAD work is to publish the Preferred Options. This will be followed by a six week public consultation which will give everyone ample opportunity to make comments on the preferred sites. South Staffordshire Council will be holding exhibitions so that residents can discuss the SAD with planning officers and make their views known. Details of the exhibition times and dates will be published alongside the SAD documents.

Keeping in Touch

South Staffordshire Council will make changes to the website when new information is available and when they are beginning the consultation. Please keep them up-to-date with your contact details – email is best – to ensure you are automatically notified when they carry out public consultations. If you have made comments on any of the consultations previously you will be on the database and they will automatically email or write to you to let you know when a new consultation begins. If you would like to sign up for all Local Plan news and consultations, then please complete the e-form at www.sstaffs.gov.uk/Planning4Places. For more information on the SAD process or any aspect of the Local Plan, please call the Local Plans Team on 01902 696000 or email localplans@sstaffs.gov.uk. Look out for more information in the South Staffordshire Review, or at your local library, leisure centre and of course your local Parish Council!

The next step

South Staffordshire Council will take on board comments made on the consultation and once they are happy that they have made the right choices, they will publish a final SAD and then, following another round of consultation, submit the SAD formally to the Secretary of State who will appoint an independent inspector to consider all aspects of the SAD and will then hold a public Examination.

You can see more about the next stages on the website at: www.sstaffs.gov.uk/siteallocations.

Church Eaton Village Markets

This article appeared on our Facebook page on 18 September and was seen by 144 people. Please try to visit the final market on 21st November in order to support establishing a permanent market in Church Eaton:

To assess the feasibility of setting up a community marketplace in Church Eaton next year, three village markets are to be held in the Institute on 19th September, 17th October and 21st November 2015. There will be a whole range of stalls selling jewellery, toys, haberdashery, furniture, baby clothes, Indian food, bric-a-brac, household goods, frozen fish, skincare products and local produce. Announcing this new initiative, Institute secretary Jenny Annis said: "The idea of a community marketplace in the village will depend on whether these three markets are well supported both from inside and outside the village. A lot of work has gone into setting them up, so we're hoping that families and friends will come along to see what's on offer." The markets will run from 10am until 1pm on each day with a coffee and tea bar selling bacon rolls. There will be ample parking too.

Tales from Weeping Bank Library:

'The Hay Man' A terrifying story written and read by A.G. Smith at Brewood Library.

Staffordshire Libraries will be celebrating autumn with a spine-tingling night of horror at Brewood Library on November the 17th. Acclaimed author A.G. Smith whose trilogy 'Harvester of the Now' has drawn praise from best-selling authors including Anthony Horowitz, Ian Thornton, Miranda Dickinson & G.P. Taylor, will once again be appearing at Brewood Library to read his horror story: "The Hay Man". Last year's event sold out and we would encourage people to book their seats as soon as they can for what is sure to be a very entertaining evening.

Tuesday 17th November - 19:15 – 21:30 (Please arrive for 19:00 to be seated)

£3.50 (£2.50 Library Members – It's FREE to join Your Library)

Booking essential as places are limited.

Refreshments will be provided during the intermission.

Contact Brewood Library on (01902) 850087 or e-mail brewood.library@staffordshire.gov.uk for further information or to book a place. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Coven Memorial Hall

This promises to be an evening of singing, dancing, hand-clapping, yodelling, action songs and all-out fun.

Bierkeller Schunklers Oompah Band

Fund raising event

On

Friday 27th November

Tickets are £13 each, including a light supper.

Further details are available from Jan Carr on 01902 791443 or Angela Jones on 01902 850506.

Proceeds will go towards on-going repairs at St Paul's Church.

Coven Memorial Hall

Come and welcome-in 2016 at Coven Memorial Hall

New Year's Dance

With

'Midnight Hour'

8.00pm – 12.45am

On New Year's Eve

There will be a bar and a raffle

Bring Your Own Supper

Tickets are £12.00

Available from Yvonne Millward on 01902 798098

Your Views on Our Website – www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk

Do you ever visit the Parish Council Website? How often? Does it give you the information you were looking for? Would you want to change it in any way? We would love to hear your views, so please either use the web address or just search for 'Brewood and Coven Parish' on the internet, take a look at the website and share your views with us either on the site 'forum' or on our Facebook page. We look forward to hearing from you.

Bishop's Wood Skate Park

The Parish Council has been requested by Bishop's Wood Village Hall Management Committee to issue a statement about the article in the last Newsletter regarding the skate park at Bishop's Wood. In the article, the Parish Council stated that the feedback was overwhelmingly in favour of replacing the equipment which was removed by the Village Hall Management Committee without the Parish Council's consent. Here are the details of the feedback received:

Responses to the Village Hall article in the Bugle: 0.

Responses to the Parish Council's article in the Bugle: 10

Those in favour of replacing the equipment: 10

Those against replacing the equipment: 0

Bishop's Wood Residents

There appears to be confusion by some residents in Bishop's Wood regarding allocation of the Roseclaim grant which is received as compensation for nuisance experienced as a result of the V Festival held each year in August.

Please take time to read the article included with this newsletter which explains the criteria for awarding the grant.

Historically articles have been placed in the Newsletter, Bishop's Wood Bugle and around Bishop's Wood itself asking for local groups to apply for funding.

Lighting of Fires

Concerns have been expressed about the lighting of fires near to the A449 at Coven Heath. In particular there is concern about the content, size, frequency and the attendant acrid smell. There are small sites where it is believed that waste material is being incinerated.

Not only is this practice potentially hazardous to health, there is major concern about visibility for traffic travelling on the A449 due to drifting smoke. Details have been forwarded to South Staffordshire Council's Environmental Health team and it is hoped that enforcement action will be taken against the perpetrators.

The Bront Questionnaire

You may or may not have heard of the Bront, which is a small open space of approximately 9 acres off Poplars Farm Way in Coven.

The Bront is owned and managed by the Parish Council. It is a hidden gem which has the River Penk running through it. There is all manner of wildlife at the site including otters, tench, stoats, weasels, harvest mice, bees, birds and butterflies. There is woodland, a meadow, more formal grassed areas and a number of pathways that criss-cross this beauty spot. Please take a little time to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to us with your views.

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:

Gemma Jones.

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

Car Scheme Co-ordinator:

Sofena Phillips.

Local Crime

Staffordshire Police have asked the Council to reinforce the message about local crime prevention. Although the incidents of crime are fairly low in our community compared with other areas, there are still opportunities for criminals to take advantage of certain situations. There have been one or two incidents recently where opportunist thieves have gained access to properties when doors have been left open. Thieves have also stolen items from garden sheds. Please lock your doors and also do not open your door to any callers you are not expecting. Legitimate callers will be only too happy for you to check their credentials prior to opening your door.

Email the Parish Council:

brewoodparish@btconnect.com

Website:

www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk

Find and like 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 or report online at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk