



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

Newsletter

July 2016

Your Councillors:

Bishop's Wood:

Jan Jeffries 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 (Vice Chair)
850938
Antonio Pupino 07857 061
128
Glen Sibley 790059

Coven Heath:

Linda Tomkins (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 quarter are:

28 July, 11 August
8 & 29 September. 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.



The Parish Celebrated Queen's 90th Birthday:

Bishop's Wood:

Despite the weather, the football and so many other events taking place at the same time, nothing appeared to dampen the celebrations. People were incredibly generous with donations of bottles, cakes, sponsorships and time. All village organisations played a part and there were activities, games and fun for all ages.... and a big birthday cake! Dancing to Fatman Alley continued into the evening, and the finale was a spectacular fireworks display. A wonderful time was had by all. The biggest thank-you must go to Lesley and Bill Oakley of Church Farm who were the generous hosts to the event; generous with their time, generous with their energy for organisation and generous with their sharing of the lovely venue. A total of £2,758.91 was raised, to be shared between village organisations.

Brewood:

St Mary and St Chad's church celebrated in great style. The church was decorated with bunting, flowers and the Union flag. At least 35 over 85 VIP guests and 150 villagers of all ages sat down to a delicious and elegant tea and champagne. There was dancing, games and joyous chatter with a celebratory cake cut by the eldest person, Harry Millward a very appropriate person as he was custodian of the church keys, opening and closing the church for 25 years.

Coven:

St Paul's church Coven held an afternoon tea party and what a tea party it was! St Paul's church was transformed into a high class tea room, with cake stands full of delicious sandwiches, cakes and scones, together with pots of tea and coffee. Over 100 who came along thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thirty 90+ year old residents received a special invitation from Fr Malcolm and sixteen were able to attend. A local resident made a beautiful card which everyone signed before it was sent to Buckingham Palace. What a posh occasion, her Majesty would have felt very much at home.

Coven Heath:

Residents celebrated in Coven Heath with a garden party and afternoon tea. The celebration was held at 'The Church on the Common' and attended by about 50 residents and friends. They all enjoyed sandwiches, rolls and chicken snacks followed by cakes that were made by competitors in the cake competition. The whole event was provided by Coven Heath Community Association committee members who also organised games, raffle and a collection for Help for Heroes.

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

Local Crime Prevention

There have been several reports of individuals going door to door in the Codsall, Brewood and surrounding areas, in an attempt to sell household items. These items are overpriced and of poor quality. The individuals claim to be ex-offenders on a rehabilitation scheme, this is not the case and they have been known at times to be rude and abusive if you refuse to purchase from them.

Police and Trading Standards advice is not to purchase from door step traders.

Please be on your guard and don't let anyone into your home without a prior appointment and make sure you verify their identity first.

Any suspicious callers should be reported to Staffordshire Police immediately. If possible take the registration numbers of any suspicious vehicles.

Ensure all your doors and windows are locked, especially if you are relaxing in the garden during the summer months.

Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is danger to life or a crime is in progress.

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies where police attendance is required, to report a crime such as a stolen car, or to report any other incidents. Calls to 101 have a fixed rate of 15p per call.

Holidays:

Before you go, cancel milk and newspaper deliveries and ask nearby neighbours to keep an eye on your home.

Ask someone you trust to be a key-holder and to make sure your house looks lived in while you are away. For example by opening and closing curtains and taking in the post. Use automatic timers to turn the lights and a radio on and off. Cut your lawns before you go and if you are on an extended holiday, ask a neighbour to cut them for you while you are away.

Put away all your garden furniture and tools, especially ladders, which could be used to break into the house. Make sure your shed and garage are locked.

Do not discuss your holiday plans on social media or where you could be overheard by strangers and do not put your home address on luggage; keep it tucked inside your cases for the outbound journey.

As you are leaving, double check that you have closed and locked all doors and windows and set the burglar alarm if you have one.

Finally, enjoy your break!

Coven Christmas Lights Fund Raising Event

Coven Running Group is fielding a team of runners to take part in the 'Birmingham Great Run' half marathon in aid of Coven Christmas lights. Your donations and support will encourage the runners in their endeavours.

The team ask for you to give generously and thank you in advance for your support. They can be contacted by email at: coven.running@mail.com, by mobile phone on 07763 096 088.

Search for Coven Running Group in Facebook or runengland.org

Brewood Library Update

The Library is now a Community managed, community run library, managed by South Staffordshire & Shropshire NHS Trust, and run by SSSFT's 'employed volunteers' from our community who manage the day-to-day opening and closing of the Library.

Catherine Mann from Staffordshire County Library Service said in June *"Following the transfer of Brewood Library to SSSFT, paid members of Staffordshire County Council staff - a Community Support Officer (Lisa Dyke) - and Stock Services & Activities Officer will work with SSSFT to provide professional guidance and expertise to ensure that the statutory library service continues to be delivered. The expectation is therefore that there will be more than one day per week trained staff support for Brewood Library."* We now understand that some of this support is telephone support.

At present, SSSFT has a 'licence to occupy' agreement (not a contract), so whilst the building, maintenance and historical utility usage will be paid for by the County Council, the SSSFT will have responsibility for maintaining the service, and will pay a peppercorn rent. SSSFT will not use the Library for clinical services but rather in supporting mental health, wellbeing, and mindfulness.

Brewood Litter Picking Champions.

There are now 19 litter picking champions covering the centre of Brewood. If you would be interested in becoming a litter picking champion, please contact Susan Hayes on 01902 850824. Litter picking tongs will be made available for you to use.

New Play Equipment at Coven Playing Field

Coven Playing Field- What's next?

The Coven Playing Field Committee consisting of local residents, working alongside Brewood and Coven Parish Council, want to provide local children and young people with a happy, care-free and safe environment that promotes cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development and we need the community's help to achieve this.

The current facilities are approximately 20 years old and need to be replaced. Earlier this year a questionnaire was sent to Coven residents to gain preferences for playground equipment. The results have been collated and published on Brewood and Coven Parish Council's website. Since then, the Committee has met with suppliers to present your preferences. On 20th July 2016 there will be a public display at the Memorial Hall with suppliers' picture boards alongside the winners of the 'design a dream playground' competition held at St Paul's school, Coven. Please come along and take a look.

So what's next and how can you help?

Fundraising efforts have begun and we are currently compiling a list of potential funding opportunities, involving local businesses and organisations.

Are you able to provide any financial support or are you aware of possible sources of funding that may exist, however large or small that could contribute to this extremely worthy cause? Perhaps you have experience of fundraising or have been involved in similar community based projects? We would welcome your advice and support to ensure this project's success. Maybe, as an interested resident of the community you are able to offer support in other ways, for example, offering equipment or your time on a voluntary basis. We would really welcome your input.

You can contact Playing Field Committee members - yvonnekinson@gmail.com or pete_and_jo@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

West Midlands Interchange at Four Ashes

Many of you will have heard about the proposal to build a new strategic rail freight interchange immediately west of Junction 12 of the M6. We are currently at stage 1 of the consultation, stage 2 consultation will be held in early 2017. The project is being proposed by Four Ashes Ltd and is a large distribution park linked into the strategic rail and road system, capable of accommodating warehouses for the storage, processing and movement of goods for manufacturers, retailers and consumers. Proposals consist of an intermodal rail freight terminal with connections to the west coast mainline, 800,000 square meters of rail served warehousing and associated buildings, a new road infrastructure and a new junction on the A5.

Due to its national significance the West Midlands Interchange will require a specific type of planning permission known as a Development Consent Order from the Secretary of State for Transport.

You can find out more at: www.westmidlandsinterchange.co.uk Consultation documents are available at Brewood Library, Penkridge Library, South Staffordshire Council Offices and here at the Parish Council Offices.

We would urge you all to take part in the consultation process.

Playing Field Equipment Upgrade

This year the Parish Council will be upgrading its equipment at Brewood and Coven playing fields. Over the summer it is anticipated that the following will be completed:

Coven The skate park equipment will be overhauled and enhanced. The fencing around the tennis courts will be replaced and the play park committee will be planning the new play park equipment. See the article above.

Brewood The skate park equipment will be extended and some outdoor gym equipment will be installed around the playing field.

Chairman of South Staffordshire Council

The parish has been extremely honoured to have had Anne Holmes representing us as Chairman of South Staffordshire Council. From May 2015 to May this year Anne has undertaken this distinguished and prestigious role. She has attended many important functions and found it both fulfilling and worthwhile. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Anne on having been selected.

Politeness and Respect

If you come to the Parish Offices, you will see a notice on the wall reminding visitors for the need to be polite and respectful when speaking to our staff. When you telephone, there is no such reminder; but happily our parishioners are by and large courteous and well-mannered. There are occasions, however, when tone of voice and choice of vocabulary have not demonstrated consideration for our employees.

Our Parish Council is lucky to have Maggie our Clerk, Gemma our Assistant Clerk and Sofena our Receptionist and Car Scheme Co-ordinator who are themselves polite and amiable, and deserve to be spoken to reasonably in return.

If you are one of the many people who are always civil and pleasant, we thank you.

Jan Jeffries, Chair of the Staffing Committee

Allotment Vacancies

We still have vacant allotments at Coven and Coven Heath, please contact Gemma, our Assistant Clerk if you would like to be considered for a vacant plot.

Polite Reminder

Please be aware that the lighting of fires is not permitted on Parish Council land, this includes barbeques.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Council Office:

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

Open 9.30am to 12.30pm
Monday to Friday.

Clerk: Maggie Birtles.

**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.**

Email the Parish Council:
brewoodparish@btconnect.com

Website:
www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk

Find and like us on Facebook



Congratulations!



As Chairman of Brewood and Coven Parish Council I am delighted to inform you that Maggie, our Clerk to the Council, married Steve Birtles on Saturday June 11th 2016; she is now Mrs Maggie Birtles.

Myself and fellow Parish Council Members offer sincere congratulations to Maggie and Steve and wish them both good luck for the future.

Linda Tomkins (Chair and Parish Councillor for Coven Heath).

Summer Out & About

FREE school holiday activities for children aged 5-12 years during August!

Once again the Parish Council has arranged a range of activities at our village halls through South Staffordshire Council. There's archery, athletics, musical theatre and more!

Take a look on our noticeboards or on our Facebook page to see what's available in Bishop's Wood, Brewood and Coven.

St Mary and St Chad Churchyard

Will people please refrain from releasing dogs off their leads in the churchyard.

Dog fouling is dangerous to health and distasteful for people mowing grass and tidying around graves.

Footpaths and Rights of Way

We would urge residents to be aware that it is their responsibility to make sure that vegetation from their gardens does not impinge on public footpaths and interfere with others' right of enjoyment. It can be very uncomfortable for people out for a walk and those with pushchairs or wheelchairs to have to push past overgrown bushes and shrubs; the responsibility extends to trees on private land which overhang public footpaths too. So please get your garden shears out, (or contact a tree surgeon) and make sure that people can walk past your property easily.

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