

BREWOD & COVEN PARISH COUNCIL

with Bishop's Wood & Coven Heath

Newsletter

March 2017

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:

9 & 26 March, 13 & 27 Apr
11 & 25 May. 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.

Your Local Councils – An Easy Guide to Services

Many people are confused about which service each of our councils provide. In this area we have three tiers of local government: Staffordshire County Council, South Staffordshire Council and Brewood and Coven Parish Council.

Here is a 'cut out and keep' guide of which councils do what in the Parish:

Staffordshire County Council is responsible for:

- ✓ Highways
- ✓ Potholes
- ✓ Maintaining roadside hedges
- ✓ Rights of way, including footpaths
- ✓ Road signs
- ✓ Street lighting
- ✓ Blocked gullies
- ✓ Road closures
- ✓ Bus routes
- ✓ Traffic management
- ✓ Adult and children's social care, including safeguarding

If you wish to report any of these issues you can either call **0300 111 8000**, email: highways@staffordshire.gov.uk online at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk or download: **MyStaffs App** to access key services. For road works, including closures and diversions, you can visit: www.roadworks.org to get live updates.

South Staffordshire Council is responsible for:

- ✓ Bins and recycling
- ✓ Fly tipping
- ✓ Fly posting
- ✓ Licensing
- ✓ Street signs
- ✓ Connect bus service
- ✓ The Goodlife
- ✓ Planning decisions and enforcement

If you wish to report any of these issues you can either call **01902 696000**, email: info@sstaffs.gov.uk online at: www.sstaffs.gov.uk or download: **MyStaffs App** to access key services. The Goodlife: www.southstaffordshire.thegoodlife.uk.net/

Brewood and Coven Parish Council is responsible for:

- ✓ Allotments
- ✓ Playing fields
- ✓ Bus shelters
- ✓ Public toilets
- ✓ Benches
- ✓ Amenity areas

If you wish to report any of these issues you can call **01902 850809** email: brewoodparish@btconnect.com online at www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk or find us on **Facebook**.

This is not an exhaustive list and you can, of course, always contact the Parish Council for advice and assistance on any local issues that you are concerned about.

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

Royal Ordinance Factory Featherstone and Other Proposals

Be aware of proposed developments in and around the Parish!

The site of the former Royal Ordinance Factory (ROF) at Featherstone has been identified by Staffordshire County Council (SCC) as a key employment site for businesses to locate to. This will necessitate highway improvements and will increase vehicle movement including heavy goods vehicles in the area.

There have been nine highway options presented by the County Council, of which two are favoured by them: options 7 and 9. If you are not familiar with this proposal you can look online at:

- www.staffordshire.gov.uk/roffeatherstone

A planning application for one of these options is expected to be submitted to South Staffordshire Council in the autumn of 2017.

The ROF site is one of four Employment Sites proposed for South Staffordshire over the coming years, the others being i54, Four Ashes, which include the Bericote Scheme and the West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange, and Hilton Cross (A460/J1 M54). **All** of these proposed developments are in or near our Parish and some have already started.

If you are unaware of these major industrial developments it would be advisable to familiarise yourself with how the local area will be changing and the impact it will bring to employment, commuting, the community and the Green Belt. Information about South Staffordshire Council's Adopted Core Strategy, Local Plan, Site Allocation Document and Supplementary Planning Documents can be viewed in detail on South Staffordshire Council's website.

Further information can be found at:

- Brewood and Coven Parish Council 35, Stafford Street, Brewood. ST19 9DX
Email: www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.co.uk
- South Staffordshire Council Office, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, WV8 1PX
Email: www.sstaffs.gov.uk
- Staffordshire County Council. 1 Staffordshire Place, Stafford, ST16 2DH
Email: www.staffordshire.gov.uk
- Four Ashes Ltd, 4th Floor, 7/10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London W1G 9DQ
Email: www.westmidlandsinterchange.co.uk

Adult Exercise Equipment in Brewood

We are proud to announce that seven pieces of adult exercise equipment have been installed at Jubilee Park in Brewood. Our Business Plan states that this Parish Council is committed to improving our recreational facilities in order to improve health and promote well-being for the whole community. At the site we now have skateboard ramps, grind benches, a grind rail and grind box, tennis courts, the home of Brewood Tennis Club, and two children's play areas. There is also an aerial runway, a youth shelter and a football pitch. There is a range of seating including picnic benches; all in all a very pleasant place for people of all ages and abilities to visit. In the near future Brewood Bowling Club will begin to play on its crown green at the site.



The Annual Parish Meeting

~~~~~ We would love to hear any ideas that you have ~~~~~

Every year in April, the Parish Council holds its Annual Parish Meeting. This is an opportunity for local residents to hear first-hand what has been happening in our villages during the past year.

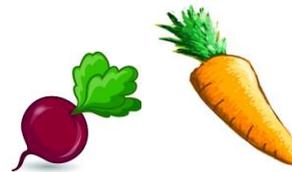
As usual the meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, 35 Stafford Street, Brewood on:  
**Thursday 13 April starting at 7.00pm.**

Please feel free to come along and meet your local Parish Councillors, find out about the work of the Council, or just take a closer look inside the Council Chamber!

**Refuse Collection**

We have an extremely efficient refuse collection service in the Parish and most residents are considerate to their neighbours, pedestrians and road users when putting out their bins. However, one or two people are causing an obstruction by putting the bin out too early; sometimes a couple of days before collection day or leaving the bin in a place that could cause an obstruction, which is an offence under the Highways Act 1980.

The Parish Council kindly asks that if you are part of the minority who do this, please be more considerate to others and refrain from obstructing the footpath outside your property.



**Allotment Vacancies at Coven Heath**

Now that the weather is improving are you thinking ahead to long, warm, summer evenings?

There is nothing better than to spend time gardening with the ultimate reward of having produced your own fruit and vegetables.

With this in mind, why not rent one of our many allotments?

We currently have three vacancies and the annual rent is a very reasonable £25.

Please get in touch if you are interested.

**Tree Replacement Policy**

For a number of years the Parish Council has had a tree replacement policy and respectfully requests that for each tree removed in the Parish, residents replace it with two trees of an appropriate scale and species, either at their property or elsewhere in the Parish. Please bear this in mind if you cut down any trees at your property.

**A Polite Reminder**

Please be considerate to residents when parking to visit our villages. We also request that you don't park or drive on or over grass verges, especially at this time of year when the ground is wet, as it churns up the surface leaving an unsightly mess.

**Burglaries in Brewood**

As you are probably aware, there has been a recent spate of burglaries in Brewood, mainly commercial premises, but some residential properties were targeted. There was an increase in Police presence around the time and as far as the Parish Council is aware, arrests have been made. However, please continue to be vigilant. Report anything suspicious to 101, keep windows and doors locked and do not leave valuables in your vehicles, including tools or equipment.

**Do you need planning permission?**



A good starting point to help you answer this question is to go online and search **planning portal – interactive house**. You can then look at guidance for any part of your house, both inside and out and find out if planning permission is required.

### Dog Fouling and the Law

Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place. If your child takes the dog out, it is their responsibility to pick up any mess. Registered blind people are not required to clean up after their guide dogs. There is also exemption for dog owners on some kinds of public land in England and Wales, however when waking your dog along a footpath, towpath or an open space such as The Bront in Coven or Barnfield Sandbeds in Brewood, it is common courtesy to other members of the community to pick up your dog's litter and dispose of it in a bin.

You should always carry a 'poop scoop' and disposable bag whenever you take your dog out to a public place. Look out for bins marked as dog bins to dispose of your dog bag. If you cannot find a dog bin, then double wrap the dog bag and place it in a normal litter bin.

If your street is littered with dog mess, report it to South Staffordshire Council and ask them to clean it up.

#### Fines and criminal offences

In England and Wales, local authorities can introduce public spaces protection orders, making it an offence not to clean up dog mess in certain areas. Under those orders, a person who doesn't clean up after their dog may face an on-the-spot fine of up to £80 (£50 in South Staffordshire). These fines are known as fixed penalty notices. If a person refuses to pay they can be taken to the local Magistrates Court for the dog fouling offence and fined up to £1,000.

The system of controlling dog fouling under public spaces protection orders was introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It replaces the old system of dog control orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

### Flooding in Bishop's Wood

Severe flooding in Bishop's Wood was reported in our last newsletter, October 2016. Since that time the community has, with the help of the National Flood Forum, formed a Flood Action Group with a focus on investigating causes and preventing problems in the future. Parish, County and District Councils, Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency are all involved. A flood action plan has been presented to a multi-agency meeting and investigations are ongoing.

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

##### Council Office:

35 Stafford Street,  
Brewood,  
ST19 9DX  
Tel. 01902 850809  
Open 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Monday to Friday.

**Clerk:**  
**Maggie Birtles MILCM**

**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.**

#### Fuel Switching and Fuel Poverty

Are you coping with a cold home?

Warmer Homes, South Staffordshire provides free and impartial energy advice on:

- ❖ Keeping warm and well at home
- ❖ Energy bills and tariffs
- ❖ Heating and hot water
- ❖ Mould and damp
- ❖ Grants and financial support
- ❖ Energy efficiency improvements

There is a freephone advice service line on: **0800 193 1092**, email advice on: [advice@mea.org.uk](mailto:advice@mea.org.uk) and for energy bill switching advice call **03333 058 671**

**Email the Parish Council:**  
[brewoodparish@btconnect.com](mailto:brewoodparish@btconnect.com)

**Visit our website:**  
[www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk](http://www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk)

**Find and like us on: Facebook.**  
Report all dog fouling to **South Staffordshire Council.**

**Staffordshire County Council** have responsibility for roads and pavements across Staffordshire:

**Please report problems such as pot holes, street lights, blocked gullies to: 0300 111 8000, email:**

**Email: [highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk)**

**Online at: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)**

**Or download: MyStaffs App to access key services**