



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

Newsletter

Sept 2017

## Your Councillors:

### Bishop's Wood:

Jan Jeffries 01902 851831  
Mary Sambrook  
01785 841398

### Brewood:

David Evans 851326  
Anne Holmes 850611 (Vice  
Chair)  
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 (Chairman)  
850938  
Antonio Pupino  
07857 061 128  
Glen Sibley 790059

### Coven Heath:

Linda Tomkins 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 Sept, 12 & 26 Oct 9  
Nov. 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.

## West Midland Interchange

It is now over twelve months since we were first made aware of the proposal to build a new Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at Four Ashes. The plans have been developed and the Stage 2 consultation period ran from 5 July to 30 August 2017. At its meeting held on 27 July 2017, the Parish Council voted overwhelmingly to oppose the proposal and made the following representation to Four Ashes Ltd:

- **The development would result in further urbanisation in South Staffordshire.**
- **The development would be inappropriate in the Green Belt with no special circumstances demonstrated.**
- **Alternative sites were available and would be more appropriate, i.e. Stoke-on-Trent, where unemployment was high.**

**Site Suitability** With regard to the suitability of the Four Ashes site for a strategic rail freight interchange, this Parish Council does not believe that an alternative site assessment has been comprehensively investigated.

**Green Belt Considerations** With regard to the National Policy Framework, very special circumstances have not been demonstrated in our opinion. We are concerned about the impact on our residents and on our Green Belt.

**Cultural Heritage** The effects of the proposed West Midlands Interchange on the cultural heritage (above ground) have not been fully explored and we are concerned about the impact on our residents.

**Ecology and Nature Conservation** The effects of the proposed West Midlands Interchange on ecology and nature conservation have not been fully explored and we are concerned about the impact on our residents.

**Air Quality and Carbon Emissions** The effects of the proposed West Midlands Interchange on air quality and carbon emissions have not been fully investigated and we are concerned about the impact on our residents.

**Landscape and Visual Impact** The effects of the proposed West Midlands Interchange on the landscape and the visual impact it may have has not been fully investigated and we are concerned about the impact on our residents.

**Socio-Economic** In relation to employment impacts of the development, the reasoning outlined in the documentation has not been adequately demonstrated. The information given does not correlate with the South Staffordshire Locality Profile 2017.

**Transport Networks** The information given is subjective and is not supported by up to date figures.

**Noise** The information given is subjective.

**Consultation Period** Although the consultation period runs between 5<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the actual window of opportunity for local residents and businesses to explore the huge impact of this proposal with presenters of the exhibitions was restricted to an 11 day period only. (11<sup>th</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> July). On behalf of our electorate, we consider this wholly inadequate for such a major development. Those Parish Councillors who were able to attend the exhibitions felt their questions to the presenters were unanswered or responses were lacking in knowledge or detail. End.

The Parish Council has also joined a collective of some 14 local Parish Councils in order to share information and gain strength in opposing this plan.

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

## Mental Ill-health and Policing – What's the True Picture?

### Abridged Article by Matthew Ellis Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire

I must confess that before being elected as Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner it wouldn't have occurred to me that mental health issues and policing are quite so inextricably linked.

Less still would I have imagined that in the UK, in 2013, society would be routinely placing individuals with mental health issues in police cells when no crime had been committed, simply because there were no appropriate healthcare facilities available.

I admit if I was walking down the street and saw someone distressed, acting irrationally or potentially putting themselves in harm's way, I too would call the police.

The urgency of that situation probably means they are needed initially but are not equipped to take responsibility for that person for any longer than is necessary. They need healthcare support and too often people can even end up criminalised in the justice system when they shouldn't be.

In 2014 I kicked off work to understand the scale of the issues police faced. The 'Staffordshire Report' provided analysis of all police incidents involving mental health. It illustrated the human aspect and the pressures on police officers dealing with individuals who have some sort of mental health condition.

It found 15% of police time here was spent dealing with mental health related incidents. Wellbeing of individuals is paramount to policing but it is not unreasonable to question the thousands of hours of police time spent supporting people in that situation when other services should be.

New thinking, extra investment and renewed effort means that the number of individuals ending up in custody in those circumstances has reduced by over 80% in Staffordshire.

Using police custody as a 'place of safety' because no healthcare facilities are available now happens less here, and also across the country.

Officers are still saying with certainty that they spend more time than ever dealing with incidents involving some aspect of mental health. So what is going on?

The lack of consistency around what constitutes a mental health associated police incident is not helpful. Not being clear about the length of time police officers spend dealing with each incident involving mental health may be masking a more complex picture.

The evidence suggesting police officers often spend hours waiting in A&E with people in their 'care' or comforting individuals in distress, is compelling. Not relying on police cells, is a big and humane step forward but it's clear that officers are regularly going beyond their responsibilities, and expertise, by spending policing time filling gaps in some other public services.

I've seen first-hand that collaborative working between police and health agencies has improved. Although that does vary geographically across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Police are also now better trained to recognise mental ill-health and whilst the availability of crisis care beds is better now in Staffordshire that too varies geographically.

The wider pressures on policing are growing because of societal change, threats that emanate from countries far away and new types of crime in an internet connected world. It means our police have little or no capacity to pick up extra responsibilities that other agencies should be dealing with.

Understanding wider issues around the increasing number of young people suffering mental ill-health, the impact of so called legal highs and the widening spectrum of social and practical pressures that are often labelled mental health is crucial to policing and our society.

It is clear that new work is needed to update the one I commissioned in 2014. I'm also hosting a meeting of mental health professionals and leaders where I expect discussions to be honest all round, forthright and informative.

It is so important that society accepts the challenges mental health brings to all ages and backgrounds. To deal better with the problems that the mix of mental health, policing and criminal justice can bring we must have a true and comprehensive picture. I am hopeful that part two of the work I kicked off in 2014 will help once again to provide that.

**Community Speed Watch (CSW)**

This is a national initiative where local communities join with the Police to monitor the speed of vehicles. The aims of the initiative are: to help local people address speeding problems in their own area, increase driver and public awareness of the dangers of speeding and improve community safety. CSW teams use hand held radar equipment at pre-identified locations to check vehicle speeds. Registration numbers and makes of vehicles exceeding the local speed limit are recorded. These details are then collated and passed to the central co-ordinator, where they are processed and letters are issued. Drivers found to be speeding are issued with an advisory warning letter requesting that they slow down and observe the speed limit. If the same vehicle is caught on a second or subsequent occasion by any Community Speed Watch team a follow-up final letter is issued. If the vehicle has been caught speeding through any Community Speed Watch for the third time within 12 months, the vehicle will be checked and information passed to the local policing team who will organize for the keeper to be visited and warned. We currently have 10 fully trained volunteers, including some Parish Councillors. If you would like to become a CSW volunteer, please contact the Clerk.

**Roseclaim Distribution 2016 V Festival**

The following groups have benefitted from Roseclaim this year:

Bishop's Wood Village Hall	£500.00
Bishop's Wood Church	£1,000.00
Bishop's Wood WI	£500.00
Bishop's Wood Arts Group	£200.00
Brewood Junior Football Club	£600.00
Brewood Tennis Club	£600.00
Brewood Cricket Club	£600.00
Brewood and District Scouts	£300.00
Brewood and District First Responders	£1,000.00

St John's First School will also be awarded an amount to be decided in the near future. There is a small contingency but the remainder of previous years' funds plus any left over this year will go towards traffic calming, village improvements and possibly flood alleviation in Bishop's Wood.

**Allotment Vacancies at Coven Heath**

Autumn is here and the leaves are beginning to fall. Work in the garden is slowing down as we prepare for winter.

It won't be too long though before we begin to think about preparations for the next year, digging over beds, lifting bulbs and protecting delicate plants from frost.

Now is the time to consider whether or not you would like an allotment of your own. Our allotments are let on an annual basis from March and if you are not quite sure if you would like one, why not take on a plot free of charge until then to see if it is right for you?

We currently have some vacancies and the annual rent is a very reasonable £25.00.

Please get in touch if you are interested.

**Brewood Parochial (Dole) Charity**

This small charity was set up over 500 years ago with the remit of offering financial assistance for the benefit of the poor of the whole area covered by Brewood and Coven (with Bishop's Wood and Coven Heath) Parish Council. If you are, or know of anyone else in distress and poverty that we might be able to help with a modest, one off donation (age is not a factor), please contact in total confidence, one of the trustees below: Rev P. Moon, Dr R. Taylor, Rev M. Coulter (for Brewood), Mrs L. Jones, Mrs J. Gibbins (for Coven), Mr I. Westwood (for Bishop's Wood) or Mr T. Prendergast (for Coven Heath). Telephone numbers are held at the Parish Council.

**Police Surgeries**

**The following Police Surgeries have been organised as a joint initiation between the Parish Council and Staffordshire Police (Dates for Coven will be publicised later):**

**Brewood (To be held in the Council Chamber, 35 Stafford Street):**

- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm (Fri)
- Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm (Wed)
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm (Fri)

**Bishop's Wood (Village Hall):**

- Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm (Wed)
- Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> 5pm-7pm (Thurs)
- Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 3pm-5pm (Wed)

**You will be able to speak to one of your Parish Councillors and our PCSO. There is no need to make an appointment, just drop in.**

**Success in the Community Council of Staffordshire's Best Kept Village Competition!**

This year Brewwood won not only the Large Village category, but also the trophy for the whole of South Staffordshire and missed out on the County prize by a whisker. We must thank those people involved for all their hard work. Sue Hayes and her team including Maggie Bailey, Linda Askew and Cathy Knight agreed to take up the BKV gauntlet this year! Sue co-ordinated the 'litter picking champions' who have been out and about in all weathers regularly tidying up around the village. Our handyman/gardener Martin Smith has been making sure that all the amenity areas are kept neat and tidy by grass cutting, edging and general maintenance. He keeps our benches and bus shelters in good repair by cleaning and painting them regularly. Our caretaker Elaine always ensures that Jubilee Park is looking its best and Matt, our janitor, fastidiously maintains Sandy Lane WC. We are proud also to announce that Bishop's Wood came third in the Small Village category.

There was success in the children's poster competition too; a pupil from St Mary and St Chad's school came second in the 5-7 age group and a pupil from St Mary's RC school won the poetry and prose competition; congratulations to you both.

The Parish Council Offices were highly commended in the commercial category of the Floral Front Garden Competition (run and paid for by Brewwood Civic Society). The boxes are planted and tended by Martin, along with the trough in Market Place, Brewwood and our other amenity areas in Coven, Bishop's Wood and Coven Heath.

**Coven Playing Field Rejuvenation**

This summer, thanks to the determination of some local parents who live in Coven, the park in School Lane was rejuvenated. The old equipment was overhauled and bids for grant funding were successful. Together with a grant from the Parish Council which had been accumulated over a number of years, the Playing Field Committee was able to provide play equipment valued at over £65,000. On 15<sup>th</sup> July there was a 'Grand Opening' by Rt. Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP and Chief Whip, followed by a Teddy Bear's Picnic which was extremely well attended. It is anticipated that Phase 2 will be completed by the autumn with the provision of some adult exercise equipment. The playing fields in our Parish now offer some of the best facilities for all ages in the region.

**Brewwood Bowling Club**

On 29<sup>th</sup> July Brewwood Bowling Club was officially opened by Rt. Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP who bowled the first bowl on the newly laid green. A new bowling club in Brewwood has been an aspiration for many years. The Parish Council agreed nearly 10 years ago that the green could be built on the playing field in Engleton Lane. The club now has a membership of 75 people and intends to continue to offer coaching sessions each week. There will also be regular taster sessions for non-members when the new season begins in April. In the meantime the committee will continue to hold regular events in order to fund raise for a club-house to be built on the site. There is a Facebook page where details of these events will be posted. The club also has a newsletter and notice board at the gate where information will be published. New members of all ages are most welcome.

**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 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.**

**Parish Guide 2018**

For many years the Parish Council has published a Parish Guide giving valuable and interesting information to local residents and our many visitors. The guide is produced and delivered free of charge to every house in the Parish and copies are available in the library, shops, pubs and restaurants. It is funded solely by income raised from the cost of the adverts contained within it.

If you have a local business and would like to appear in the next edition of the Guide, please contact [www.localauthoritypublishing.co.uk](http://www.localauthoritypublishing.co.uk) for further information.

You can see the current Guide at [www.brewwoodandcovenparish.org.uk](http://www.brewwoodandcovenparish.org.uk)

If you have any interesting facts about the area and think they should be included in the new Guide, please get in touch with the Clerk.

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

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