



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

Newsletter

August 2018

Your Councillors:

Bishop's Wood:

Jan Jeffries 01902 851831
Mary Sambrook
01785 841398

Brewood:

David Evans 851326
Anne Holmes 850611
(Chairman)
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
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:

13 & 27 Sept, 11 & 25
October 8 & 29 Nov.
Council meetings are held
at 7.00pm 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.

New Housing Provision for the Parish and Beyond

Coven Following consultation with residents at Coven Memorial Hall in June, a planning application has been submitted to South Staffordshire Council for 63 dwellings in School Lane.

The proposal includes: a mix of sizes and types, including 40% affordable homes, access off School Lane, provision of public open space with opportunities for areas of play, retention of existing trees and hedgerows alongside planting of new hedgerows and trees and a sustainable drainage system to manage surface water and ensure there is no increased risk of flooding.

Brewood A planning application will be submitted in the autumn for approximately 70 new dwellings on land off Engleton Lane and the proposals are similar to the above. It is possible that the plans will be amended following feedback from the public consultation exercise held on Wednesday 29th August from 4pm to 7.30pm at Brewood Jubilee Hall. Comments will be accepted by post until 12 September.

Both of the above sites were identified by South Staffs Council in the Site Allocations Document first proposed in 2012.

Bishop's Wood A Rural Exception Site at Bishop's Wood has been earmarked for development of affordable housing. A public consultation was held in the Village Hall, and final proposals for the size and type of accommodation are awaited.

The Parish Council commissioned a Housing Needs Survey back in 2014 and welcomes the fact that these developments, which will provide an opportunity for local people to live affordably in the Parish.

Possible Garden Village in Tong

A proposal has been put forward by the Bradford Estates that Green Belt land of 1.600 acres around Tong be developed into interlinked garden villages of around 10,000 homes. This would make Tong bigger than Albrighton, and impinge on the lives of residents of Bishop's Wood.

Parish Councillors have attended all meetings in Tong regarding this, with a view to protecting the interests of Bishop's Wood and the rest of our Parish.

The Tong Action Group is awaiting further information, but meanwhile is urging Shropshire County Council to look at Brownfield sites to fulfil their housing requirements, and feel there is no necessity to use Green Belt land. On 15th August, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Communities Secretary, announced a new 'garden communities programme'. This does, however, also call for locally-led developments, as part of the Government's ambition to build 300,000 homes by the mid-2020s.

To take part in the programme, private developers need to secure support from local authorities, and there is currently a 3-month application process for developers to go through. We will wait to see if our Parish is threatened by development from the west as well as the east of its boundary.

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2nd Brewood Scouts Group New Ramp

A wheelchair access ramp has recently been completed at the hut in Deansfield Road, Brewood which is the headquarters of the 2nd Brewood Scout Group, including Girl Guides. The hut is used by over 100 young people each week across the traditional age ranges of the two movements, from both Brewood and Bishop's Wood. The project, which has also helped towards bringing in old building up to modern day standards of safety, would not have been possible without financial support from the Parish Council, and other local organisations including both the District and County Council who have membership or representation on the Parish Council. A grant was also made from the people of Bishop's Wood via Roseclaim money. We are also aware of the encouragement given by the Church of St Mary & St Chad to all young people, including Scouts and Guides, in Brewood and surrounding villages. All members of the group would like to express their gratitude to the Parish Council and its members for their support.



Brewood Win Best Kept Village Again!



Once again Brewood has won the title 'Best Kept Village'. This year Brewood was judged to be both the best large village in the south of the County and also the best large village in the entire County, so everyone is thrilled at this success.

In addition to this, one of our local pupils (Oona Gowan) from St Mary & St Chad's won the competition for best 'Spirit of BKV' poster (5-7 age group) in the County.

Copies of the certificates, the shield, the winning poster, and photographs from the presentation are all displayed in the window of Shutters Photography in Church Road, Brewood. As County winners Brewood was presented with a shield, and a rowan tree which will be planted in a suitable patch in the village.

Of course, this has only been achieved with the help, support and hard work of many village people, organisations and businesses, too many to list here but you know who you are!

Brewood has 27 'Litter Picking Champions' who each cover a section of the village and keep it litter free all year around not just during the judging period. A generous donation from the Rotary Club of Brewood and District enabled the purchase of extra litter-picking equipment.

There are two initial rounds of judging for BKV undertaken during May and then June and successful villages go through to a third round in July. There is also a fourth and final round for potential County winners. Villages are not told specifically when visit will take place. Judges look not just for a tidy, litter-free village, but very importantly they look for evidence of community effort.

Keep a close eye on your BKV Notice-board in the village centre where the judges' feedback will be posted (probably in early September) – then you can see where marks were gained and lost, thus everyone can do even better next year! Your committee will also keep you updated on all things BKV on the Facebook page, Brewood Matters.

If you can help the village in its work to win BKV again, contact Sue Hayes at sue.hayes@hotmail.com or Maggie Bailey at maggie@mansions.me.uk

Staffordshire County Council Reduced Services

With less funding and more demand for care services in particular, Staffordshire County Council no longer has the money to do everything it used to, or maybe would like to do. The county council needs to balance what it can spend on maintaining highways and rights of way, and the need to spend more on the most vulnerable people in their society, including vulnerable children and families.

With reducing resources the County Council must focus on its statutory duties and is no longer in a position to fund amenity maintenance works and extensive right of way maintenance that keep our localities looking good. It needs to focus more on its statutory responsibilities.

Many local councils already deliver these types of activities by keeping footpaths accessible and maintaining hedges and verge areas in their towns and parishes. This is making a huge difference to people's local environment and quality of life, but it is clear that local people and local councils need to take more action to keep the local environment looking good and working well. Working together we can still ensure that we can all take pride in the highways and rights of way in our communities.

Please take a look at this website www.highwaysourway.info/ which aims to provide you with information you might need to get more involved and actively take pride in the local environment.

Brewood and Coven Parish Council employs a part time gardener/handyman who maintains many of the facilities in and around the Parish and his service is a real benefit to us. However, with the reduction in service provision from the County Council comes the withdrawal of the neighbourhood highways team. This means that we will no longer have additional assistance with verge and hedge cutting and non-essential works.

The Parish Council is asking for the community to get together to volunteer to help with this kind of work. We already have Friends of The Bront in Coven and Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds in Brewood, together with our Best Kept Village volunteers and a very active group in Coven Heath. All these people work tirelessly to keep their villages clean, tidy and free from weeds and overhanging branches but to prevent a decline in the appearance of our villages we need more people to take an active role; even if it's just cutting the verge outside your property or pulling up weeds in the footpath outside your house, every little helps.

With reduced services in mind, could we again ask residents to ensure that they sweep up foliage and leaves from paths near their gardens. Slippery paths can cause accidents!

Parking Restriction Concerns

If you are concerned about unauthorised parking or have any requests or enquiries regarding on-street parking restrictions, permits, enforcement, or zones please contact Staffordshire County Council via:

Email: clear.streets@staffordshire.gov.uk or **Telephone:** 0300 111 8000.

Please note: Clear Streets do not cover illegal obstructions and dangerous parking such as parking on footways where there are no parking restrictions; the Police enforce these. Where there are no traffic regulations in place, such as yellow lines, please contact the Police via the non-emergency number 101.

Off-street parking. For off-street parking enquires, including car parks, please contact South Staffordshire Council.

Flash Flooding

This summer we have experienced some extreme weather conditions. It seems a long time ago now but there was a lot of flash flooding during May and some areas were more badly affected than others. Some residents, particularly in Coven, were quite distressed that their properties were at risk of flood damage and were concerned that they did not know whom to turn to in an emergency. Please be reassured that should you find yourself in a similar situation there is an emergency out of hours number available. If you call the usual number for South Staffordshire Council (01902 696000) you will be given the emergency contact details and advice on what action you need to take.

Health, Safety and Consideration of Others

There was an accident recently at the playing field in Coven when a resident was hit in the face by a golf ball which was thrown up by one of the machines being used to cut the grass. Please do not take or allow your children or grandchildren to take golf balls or similar objects onto the Parish Council's playing fields. Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

Over the summer there has been quite a lot of anti-social behaviour in the evenings at Coven playing field. The Police have been made aware and have been monitoring the situation closely. We would hope that the young people involved are not from our parish but we would ask you, as responsible parents, to find out where your children are, who they are with and what they are doing whilst they are not at home.

Reminder - Applying For Grants from the Parish Council

If you represent an organisation in the Parish and wish to apply for a grant from next year's budget (2019-20) please visit our website at www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk where you can find information and an application form. The budget will be set in December so please get your application in before then.

Summer BBQ Coven Heath

Coven Heath Community Association held a summer BBQ on 18th August which was attended by many Coven Heath residents and some Parish Councillors. The event raised £800 which will be donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

West Midlands Interchange

Four Ashes Limited submitted a Development Consent Order application for West Midlands Interchange to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 3 August 2018. PINS has 28 days from submission to decide whether the application is at a stage where it can be accepted for examination.

Reducing Speeding Vehicles in the Parish

~~~The Community Speed Watch Team is looking for more volunteers. If you can spare some time please get in touch~~~

**CONTACT DETAILS:****Council Office:**

35 Stafford Street,  
Brewood,  
ST19 9DX

Tel. 01902 850809

Open 9.30am to 12.30pm  
Monday to Friday.

Meetings start at 7.00pm

**Clerk:**

**Maggie Birtles PSLCC**

**Assistant Clerk:**  
**Gemma Jones.**

**Voluntary Car Scheme:**  
Tel. 01902 851786

**Car Scheme Co-ordinator:**  
**Sofena Phillips.**

**Brewood and District First Responders**

As many of you will already know, two of our well known First Responders, Chris and Ann Peters from Bishop's Wood, moved away from the area in May this year.

At the time Mr and Mrs Peters were presented with a Parish Council Shield together with a book of thanks which had been circulated around the Parish and contained many kind words of gratitude to the Peters from people who had had personal experience of the service, including some Parish Councillors.

On behalf of the community, the Parish Council would like to express its appreciation to Chris and Ann for their contribution to this community during their time as First Responders and wish them well in the future.

**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: [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**