



BREWOD & COVEN PARISH COUNCIL

with Bishop's Wood & Coven Heath

Newsletter

February 2018

Your Councillors:

Bishop's Wood:

Jan Jeffries 01902 851831
Mary Sambrook
01785 841398

Brewod:

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:

8 & 22 Feb, 8 & 29 March,
12 April. Council meetings
are held at 7.30pm in the
Council Chamber, 35
Stafford Street, Brewod
and include a 15 minute
public participation session
at the start of each
meeting, members of the
public are encouraged to
attend.

One way system in Brewod – A Measured Response

There has been much speculation recently about the idea of a one way system in Brewod, but this is not a new idea. A one way system in Brewod was first discussed by the Parish Council in 1985. Since then there have been two further surveys carried out. Some people think that one way traffic would solve the problem of congestion which occurs between 8.45am and 9.00am and 3.30pm and 4pm during term time. School buses serving the 4 schools, delivery lorries, cars, farm vehicles and inappropriate parking by parents dropping off and picking up school children all contribute to the problem. However, if a one way system was introduced with the route as suggested taking traffic up Dean Street, along Church Road to Market Place and down Sandy Lane this would cause gridlock at the junction of Bargate Street, Stafford Street and Market Place during busy times. This is what is known as an unforeseen consequence. It has been estimated by Staffordshire County Council that the cost of having a one way system would be in excess of £30k. To undertake a survey alone would be around £4,000. The County Council simply does not have this amount of money to spare and it is not feasible to have a temporary or trial run. Furthermore, once a one way system is in place it cannot be undone.

The village has been compared with Wombourne and Cheslyn Hay. Both these villages have one way systems but still suffer from major congestion when vehicles are picking up and dropping off school children and at other busy times.

Like many historic villages up and down the country, Brewod's narrow streets were constructed when the only traffic was pedestrians and horse and carts. These narrow streets are what gives the village its character and charm and is what makes it such an attractive place to live.

Speeding is another perceived problem in the village centre. It is quite possible that a one way system would speed up traffic entering Dean Street and leaving Sandy Lane, this would then require further traffic management measures such as chicanes and speed humps which would further spoil forever the quaintness and attraction of the village; another unintended consequence.

The Parish Council is aware of a Facebook campaign which was 'just for fun' and would like to point out that this was not commissioned or any way endorsed by either the Parish, District or County Council.

There is a popular misconception that decisions regarding traffic management are taken by the Parish Council. This is categorically not correct. Any changes regarding the public highway are the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council and no changes are ever made without first consulting with local residents. For example, in 2016, a proposal was made to introduce a one way system running along School Road, Brewod. A survey was carried out by the County Council but unfortunately the idea was quashed because local residents were against it. A compromise was reached to extend double yellow lines, which seems to have reduced the problem to some extent.

We sincerely hope that you appreciate the above explanation, but should you wish to make any comments, please let us know and we will forward them on to Staffordshire County Council.

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

Police Surgeries

The following Police Surgeries have been organised as a joint initiative between the Parish Council and Staffordshire Police. 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.

Bishop's Wood Village Hall:

27 February 4pm – 6pm
10 April 4pm – 6pm

Coven Memorial Hall:

28 February 5pm – 7pm
11 April 5pm – 7pm

Brewood Parish Council Chamber, 35 Stafford Street:

26 February 5pm – 7 pm
9 April 5pm – 7pm

Grant applications 2017-18

The following grants were paid this financial year:

| Organisation: | Grant Amount: |
|---|----------------------|
| Bishop's Wood Village Hall | £2,880 |
| Jubilee Hall, Brewood | £2,880 |
| Coven Memorial Hall | £2,880 |
| Coven Heath Community Association | £700 |
| Brewood Christmas Lights | £2,250 |
| Coven Christmas Lights | £2,750 |
| Bishop's Wood Christmas Lights | £500 |
| Coven Heath Christmas Lights | £200 |
| Brewood Parish Sports Association | £3,000 |
| Brewood and District 1 st Responders | £2,000 |
| Brewood Music Festival | £1,000 |
| Brewood Tennis Club | £1,500 |
| Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds | £250 |
| Brewood Bowling Club | £5,000 |
| Coven Village Sign | £1,000 |

Coven Village Sign

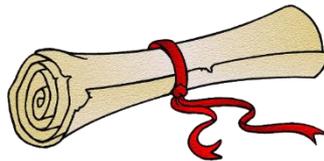
Many of you will have noticed the new sign at the junction of Lawn Lane and Brewood Road. Members of the Best Kept Village team agreed many years ago that any prize monies be saved to erect a permanent feature in Coven village. Over the years others have helped deliver newsletters and together with small grants the team has at last been able to commission the impressive sign. The sign depicts St Paul's Church, Grange Farm and is decorated to remind villagers of their rural surroundings. The locomotive represents the work of John Smith (1827 – 1879) who, in the Village Foundry opposite the sign (where Parsons' Croft now stands) developed traction engines for agricultural use and later locomotives for the local collieries. We hope you will take time to have a look and appreciate this unique piece of work.



Christmas Lights Switch-On Events

The Parish Council would very much like to thank all the members of the Christmas Lights Committees throughout the Parish and also Brewood Satellite Rotary Club. The events this Christmas in Bishop's Wood, Brewood, Coven and Coven Heath were a great success and very well attended. We should all be extremely grateful to the people who give up their time to organise these very special occasions. Work will start again during January in preparation for next year!

Parish Council Recognition



The Parish Council is always keen to celebrate the achievements of our local people. When these accomplishments are brought to our attention, where appropriate, we arrange a formal presentation of a 'scroll' by the Chairman in the Council Chamber at a full meeting the Council.

If you hear of anyone, either now or in the future who has won an award, carried out some voluntary work or achieved something special, please get in touch with us and we will consider recognising their success or good work.

Coven Playing Field Update

The Coven Playing Fields Rejuvenation Committee spent many hours last year working on phase one at the site in School Lane, Coven and successfully provided a fabulous playground for community use. At the end of the project, committee members were looking forward to a well-earned rest.

However, they were unable to resist the temptation to continue with a second phase to provide some outdoor gym equipment, aimed specifically at adults.

In conjunction with the Mid-Counties Co-op they raised a further £4,587. Seven new pieces of gym equipment have been installed near the entrance gate. Hopefully this will attract lots of people hoping to get a little bit fitter, not only as part of a New Year's resolution, but also throughout the year!



Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme

Are you making any New Year Resolutions? Could one of them be to help others in the coming year?

If you have ever read our appeals for new drivers and thought "Oh I might give them a ring and have a chat" but didn't get round to it, now it the time to do it!

Please note that how involved a driver becomes is the choice of the individual. Some prefer to only do 1 or 2 trips a month whilst others take on 2 or 3 journeys a week. Some prefer to avoid certain destinations whilst others are happy to go anywhere. **THE CHOICE REALLY IS YOURS.** Whatever contribution a driver chooses to make, they are reimbursed their mileage expenses on a monthly basis and there is no impact on your car insurance, you simply send a standard letter to your insurance company, available from the car scheme, which explains how the scheme operates.

The scheme is completely flexible in accepting whatever a driver chooses to offer. Still don't believe it's that easy? Why not talk to Sofena Phillips, the Car Scheme Co-ordinator, on 01902 851786 or call into the office at 35 Stafford Street, Brewood (The Parish Council Office) between 9.30am and 12.30pm, Monday to Friday.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our existing voluntary drivers for their commitment, good will and compassion. Many of our drivers go that extra mile (pardon the pun) to get people to essential appointments at GP surgeries, dentists, hospitals and other services which they would not be able to access otherwise.

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 PSLCC

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.

South Staffordshire Community Lottery

South Staffordshire Community Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in South Staffordshire. All good causes supported by the lottery will benefit South Staffordshire and its residents.

The new 'South Staffordshire Lottery Advisory Panel' will administer the revenue generated from the central fund. The Leader of South Staffordshire Council will determine the applications supported by the advisory panel of 10 Elected Members. The 10 Elected Members will be politically balanced and represent each Locality. The panel will first meet in October 2018.

Play the lottery, Support South Staffordshire - it's that simple! Tickets are only £1 per week. With 60% going to local good causes and prizes up to £25,000!

Each ticket has a **1 in 50** chance to win a prize each week. That's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery! support@southstaffslotery.co.uk

Email the Parish Council:

brewoodparish@btconnect.com

Visit our website:

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

Online at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

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