

Annual Report



June 2018
Version 3

This report has been compiled by Abbots Bromley Parish Council
using input from a number of different sources.
Any views expressed are those of the original authors and do not
necessarily coincide with those of the Parish Council.

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Introduction

The annual report

The purpose of this annual report is to make freely available information about the work of the parish council and other community organisations. The council hopes that you will find the information useful and understandable.

This report aims to bring together in one place key details about the activities of the parish council.

Summary to all homes

A summary of this annual report from the parish council is to be included in the June 2018 ***Bromley Bulletin*** distributed to all households in the parish.

Also available on-line

An electronic copy of this report is available on the village website where you can view it or print your own copy – www.abbotsbromley.com.

Council Members and Officer – 2017/18

Council Members

•Adela Appleby	840169
Philip Charles	840251 - CHAIRMAN
David Denny	840605
•John Houlihan	07903 214325
•Roger Jarman	840678
•Michelle Moore	840280
•Rosamund Robb	840599
•Phil Ryan	840019
•Bryn Walters	840976 - VICE CHAIRMAN

Officer:-

Mrs Sarah Meads 01283 840891
Clerk to the Parish Council
Marsh Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley, Staffs, WS15 3EJ
Email: parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

The chairman and vice chairman are entitled to serve ex officio, on all groups

Working Group	Member(s)
Competitions	The Clerk, Adela Appleby
Finance/Grants	Cllrs P Ryan, J Houlihan, M Moore
Newsletter	Cllr R Jarman The Clerk(Editor) Cllr P Charles (Distribution)
Planning	All Councillors
Recreation	Cllrs P Ryan, R Robb, J Houlihan, M Moore
Traffic & Parking	Cllrs R Jarman, Mrs Robb, A Appleby
Village Property	R Robb, J Houlihan
Neighbourhood Planning Group	Cllrs B Walters, P Ryan, R Robb

Representatives

Almhouses	Cllr Jarman
Finance Officer	Cllr J Houlihan
Schools	Cllr B Walters
United Charities	Cllrs Charles and P Ryan
Village Hall	Cllr P Ryan
ABSA	Cllr P Ryan

Reports to the Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday, 23rd May 2018 7.00 pm At the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley

Introduction: We have a number of written statements for the Parish Assembly this year and a verbal statement from our Borough Councillor Greg Hall. This document contains the reports submitted in advance of the assembly, and questions on the contents may be asked during the open forum. Additional reports will be added after the meeting.

Contents:

Parish Council Report	Cllr P Charles
Parish Council Finance	The Clerk
Village Hall Report	Mr Simon Wilson
Community First Responders	Mr R Stevenson
Richard Clarke First School	Mr John Hough
Staffordshire County Councillor's Report	Cllr Philip Atkins
East Staffordshire Borough Councillor's Report	Cllr Greg Hall – provided at the meeting.
Parish Council Financial Statement	To be added
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2018	The Clerk
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2017	The Clerk

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Planning – During the year we have been consulted on 50 planning applications (compared with 52 last year). These ranged from the usual tree works, retention of a panel fence, house extensions to several agricultural barn conversions. The council was very disappointed that the ESBC passed the application to remove the cedar tree behind Cedar Cottage, which we felt was a major contributor to the Conservation Area in the village centre. The Council has continuing concerns over the state of works on the Goats Head, which we feel can only be leading to a general deterioration of the fabric of the listed building and have had ongoing contact with the owners.

Bromley Bulletin – This year we published in June, November and February.

Christmas Tree – Finally it was decided that the small tree was big enough to carry the lights unaided and so it proved, however it was felt that next time we need a different power system and the Council is looking into reverting back to the mains supply. Letters have been sent in appreciation to the people who supplied the batteries and switched the lights on and off.

Parish Council Surgeries – Our regular bi-monthly Saturday morning surgeries (10.00am to 11.00am) in Church House have continued to provide access to Councillors. They have created a useful means of communication with the public.

Best Kept Village Competition – After the sterling efforts by Cllr Appleby and her teams of cleaners, clearers and litter pickers, Abbots Bromley came first in the East Staffordshire area Large Village category and also won the trophy for the Best Overall Village in the area. We are now looking to retaining the 'crown'.

Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan – Because of reasons beyond their control the Working Group was unable to submit the Plan to ESBC in November. I will leave it to Cllr Bryn Walters to give an update in more detail later.

Highways and Parking – After many years of trying the Council has been successful in obtaining a second sign at the junction of Lichfield Road and Radmore Lane and having the two signs for Miresbrook Lane replaced. We have had less success with the drainage problems and blocked gullies on Crown Bank but will keep trying. Pot holes have continued to be reported and most have been repaired although some have reappeared within a short time.

Parking on the main streets has continued to be a problem. Hopefully now the development work at the AB School and Ashbrook Lane has finished, fewer vehicles will be parked in those areas.

The Council has obtained additional '20 is plenty' signs and a speed display unit. We wait to see how successful they will be.

There is a growing amount of correspondence with the SCC Highways Department over the narrowness of the pavement/footpath along Uttoxeter Road around the 'airfield', having started the work it was then postponed because of the state of the hedge and the weather, both of which are now improved but we are still waiting for the work party to return.

Like- wise we are still pursuing the SCC to remove the litter generated by the Ironman event, hopefully before the next one takes place on June 10th, they seem to be willing to laud the event as wonderful for the County but not so keen to clear up afterwards.

Library Consultation – Another consultation on the library service started on January 8th for twelve weeks. As the Staffordshire County Council needs to make savings the results are unlikely to be good for the rural mobile service.

Mobile Post Office – On a more optimistic note, a consultation has been run on the provision of a travelling Post Office van visiting the village to provide postal services and retail products, we await the results.

Finance – With the closure of the Youth Club and non-use of the grant the Council had allocated to them, we have been able to give grants to ABSA, Rainbows, Scouts and Richard Clarke First School at the end of the financial year.

Jubilee Cup 2017/18 – Last year's worthy recipient was Elizabeth Palmer for the many years involvement with the Abbots Bromley First Responders, both on the 'front line' and behind the scenes in the administration.

Membership of the Council – Having made a major contribution over the short time she was a member, Adele Wakefield left us and we welcomed David Denny on to the Council in January.

Cllr Phil Charles
Parish Council Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The parish council has its own Financial Regulations, which set down the rules by which the finances of the council are managed. The council employs an independent internal auditor who reviews the financial records. At the end of the year an audit return is completed and submitted to the Audit Commission for the purposes of external audit. The council's financial regulations can be viewed on the website or via arrangements with the clerk.

The unapproved financial statements for the council for the year to 31st March, 2018 will be tabled at the Parish Assembly. The internal audit and unaudited accounts are available to view on line at parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

Sarah Meads
Parish Clerk

ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

Chairman's report

During the last 12 months the village hall has finally secured legal rights for access and use of the field to the rear known as "Gallimores". The intention is to keep the field available as public open space for use by all villagers with the village hall committee carrying out maintenance when required with financial help from the parish council gratefully received.

Financially the hall has suffered an operating loss of £3000 over the last 12 months due to a decline in use, however we do still have money in reserves to allow us to continue to

offer the hall for use by everyone. Whilst sad that usage has decline it is not uncommon across many village halls for this to have happened.

We are keeping on top of maintenance with various fixtures and fittings being replaced when necessary and we are currently under taking a review of our data protection and safeguarding procedures.

I would like to thank all the committee for their time and effort in keeping the hall up and running and hoping for a more financially prosperous next 12 months.

Simon Wilson, Chairman
Abbots Bromley Village Hall Committee

Abbots Bromley Community First Responders

The last few months has seen a number of interested individuals who have started training and hope to join the community as responders as soon as training has been completed. (We have only one member from the village the other individuals all live towards Uttoxeter).

The Ambulance was taken off the road for major repairs, new gear box and clutch system. The life of the Abbots Bromley First response vehicle is a hard life, a lot is required from the ambulance and it is now starting to show its age. We may have another year or so before it will have to be replaced. Funds are being requested from a number of different sources and the paper work for this has been undertaken by myself.

The team will be three strong soon once new course personnel have completed their training and old CFR have passed refresher training.

I am feeling hopeful about the team's future, we still need support from our community and our MP in insuring that CFR training is completed by West Midlands Ambulance service.

We are still called on and job numbers are only slowed down by the amount of hours Abbots Bromley has responders on duty.

E-Mail: Stevenson20@btinternet.com
Home: 01283 840437
Mobile: 07800849237

Richard Clarke First School Report

Here is a brief summary of some key elements for the past 12 months.

Financial: The 2018-2019 budget is has now been set and, as usual, it will challenge our financial control capabilities. However, thanks to healthy pupil numbers and the expert attention of RCFS management, we believe that we will generate a small surplus this year. If so, it will enable us to replace some of the reserves that we had to use last year. Further ahead, the situation still presents risks and uncertainties to be overcome. We have an annual budget approaching £600,000 of which about 75% are staff costs. However, we will maintain the existing staffing structure which has delivered the high quality of education and pupil care of which RCFS is justly proud.

The DfE proposals to rebalance school funding across England are still in the pipe-line but will probably not be a life-changing event, although there are cross-party demands for a realistically generous response. Will additional funding be offered or will existing funding simply be re-allocated? The obvious problem is that all children have individual needs and each school presents a unique composite of these needs. To find a straightforward formula or algorithm with sufficient flexibility to satisfy the underfunding problem seems to be an impossible demand.

On a more positive note, we have a superb PTFA who continue to raise money for projects in RCFS. The current 'mission impossible', which we have asked them to accept, is to raise money to help towards the upgrade of our creaking ICT infrastructure. The Parish Council have also made donations and, of course, we have the Endowment Fund from our eponymous founder, to whom we regularly offer a prayer of thanks.

Number of Pupils: We are predicting 130 to 132 pupils for the Autumn Term 2018, the largest number for many years. This will give us a well-balanced number of pupils across all Year Groups which will, of course, generate more revenue from the funding formula. New housing developments in Abbots Bromley will have helped but out-of-catchment demand, attracted by our reputation, has also contributed to the healthy roll numbers.

Staffing: The staffing structure remains remarkably stable and has allowed us to have a full-time teacher in every class, with excellent classroom support from teaching assistants and, of course, parent helpers. Preserving this structure against the risk of unmanageable external financial pressures is one of our highest priorities. The RCFS staff has an excellent range of teaching and learning skills which are shared across the school by an in-house mentoring programme.

School Performance: Most previous reports have mentioned the possibility of a snap OfSTED inspection. However, since this took place in January 2017 (see last year's RCFS Report) we have been able to relax just a little and enjoy the initial warm glow which comes from having our excellent qualities recognised. We then, of course, have to continue with our role in providing the education that our children deserve. Our key priorities for 2018 are:-

- To continue to develop and improve the quality of teaching and learning in maths
- To evaluate and improve standards of phonics and spelling across the school
- To raise the profile of health and well-being of pupils and staff
- To bring our data protection practises in-line with the new GDPR regulations

The above are specific, headline priorities which have to be addressed but the on-going priorities, which define why we exist, have been absorbed into the fabric of the RCFS experience - Pupils' *Mastery* across the curriculum, Early Years Teaching and Learning, Safeguarding, Developing the Learning Environment.

Uttoxeter Learning Trust (ULT): There are 17 schools in the Uttoxeter Pyramid and 7 have currently opted to join the ULT and 4 have decided to join the Staffordshire University MAT. One school is changing to a full primary (adding Years 5 & 6) and 5 schools, including RCFS, are choosing to remain as maintained schools. Our decision to stay with LA support is based on our assessment that RCFS performance, governance, financial management and leadership do not require the improvements that proponents of academies claim would be delivered. Financial pressures could, be a major influence on

our decision in future but, for the moment, we firmly believe that the benefits to our children are better served by staying as an LA maintained school.

Summary: RCFS has maintained its excellent reputation for leadership, classroom skills, financial management and governance and it will continue to use these qualities to address future pressures which, as most people acknowledge, are never very far away in our education system. We have continued to give our children an excellent learning experience which will prepare them well for their onward journey to maturity. RCFS is regarded very highly by its current parent cohort and by other parents across the region. Most schools across the country have to face funding challenges; some believe that joining a MAT is their only solution. We believe that we are in a better position than most to deal with the challenges, although it will not be easy. I wish to offer my thanks to the RCFS leadership and the classroom staff who continue to deliver excellence despite having to contend with a changing curriculum, moving goal-posts and the latest educational fads; to the parents who support and encourage them; to the governors whose skilled and dedicated efforts are crucial; and of course to the children who respond brilliantly to all of the above.

The latest news about The Richard Clarke First School can be found on our web-site (www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) together with further RCFS details, photographs, staff and governor profiles, OfSTED reports and statistics and other performance information. I would encourage you to visit it.

John Hough
Chair of Governors, Richard Clarke First School

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UTTOXETER RURAL DIVISION – REPORT 2018

Uttoxeter Rural Division Annual Report April 2018

I continue as the Leader of the County Council with other roles on the council's behalf such as the Local Government Pension Scheme, Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Board, Midlands Engine Strategic Board and Midlands Connects. I am Vice Chairman of the County Council Network and am a Member of the Local Government Association Resources Board and the Cabinet Office's National Growth Board. A busy life as I still farm at Abbey Fields in Rocester, on South Staffordshire College Board and Rocester Parish Council.

We have had two by elections over the past year because of the death of two county councillors, both of them fit, active and sporty individuals in their Fifties. The Conservatives retain overall control of Staffordshire County Council with 51 seats: Conservative 51, Labour 10 and Other 1.

The past year has been one of the most difficult I have known as a county councillor. Councillors and officers have been hard at work on the budget and in February we approved several important pieces of work including our four-year strategic plan, our budget for 2018/19, and an additional £5 million investment in fixing potholes. However for this financial year we will see the County Council delivering record spending on care of the most vulnerable in our communities and still balance the books. This is a huge achievement at a time when financial pressures remain immensely challenging.

And, as we move to becoming self-financing, due to the loss of Government grants, it's become increasingly important that we continue to grow our economy and support the creation of a more skilled workforce. This coupled with promoting the development of housing needs will help make the council even more self-sufficient.

Some of the headlines from the four-year plan and budget include:

- Investing a record £310 million this year on care of the elderly, people with learning disabilities, and children in our care
- Remaining the third lowest county council tax despite raising it by 5.95 per cent this year, which includes the Government's 3 per cent ring-fenced precept to be spent on social care – equivalent to an overall rise of around £1.30 per week in county council tax on a Band D property
- Spending an extra £5 million once again to tackle potholes in 2018/19
- Bidding to be part of the Government's next round of business rates pilot, which could bring in an extra £10 million to the county council
- Rolling out the Smart Staffordshire programme – maximising the use of digital technology to benefit residents and businesses
- Encouraging a programme of housing development to support growth and investment in the county.

Over the past eight years we have achieved a huge amount in transforming Staffordshire for the benefit of all its residents. More people are in work, young people are leaving school and college with better qualifications, people are living longer, and tell us they feel safer and happier than ever before.

While we are proud of these achievements, the world around us is changing fast and there is so much more we want to do. We will continue to work with our local communities and all our partners to make sure we give the people we serve every opportunity to improve their lives.

In recent years the county council has been increasingly honest that we can no longer afford all the things we used to do or would like to do. We need to find different ways of working that help people to help themselves, take greater personal responsibility for their own lives, health and wellbeing, and greater responsibility for improving their own communities.

The county council will receive no funding from government and become self-funding by 2020 and on top of demographic pressures of social care we will have to save £37M next year. But we have started to work on this early so we can plan early. In the next part I will try to map out changes that lie ahead with something we call "Plan on a Page". The county council cannot do this alone; but must continue to work with all parts of the public and private sector and our residents themselves.

Our Vision: A connected Staffordshire where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy

Outcomes

The people of Staffordshire will:

- Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth
- Be healthier and more independent
- Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community

Priorities



Create the right conditions for **economic growth** across the whole of Staffordshire that produces more, better paid jobs for residents.



Support the construction of more **housing** to meet the growing needs of our families and people young and old.



Improve **Education and Skills** provision in our schools, colleges and universities so that more people gain the training and qualifications they need to succeed.



A joined up approach to **Health, Care and Wellness** that encourages people to take responsibility for their own health and plan for their future, so that we can support those who really need it.



Ensure **Children and Families** have a network of support to help manage their own problems and stay safe and well.

Enablers



Our **workforce** is the greatest asset we have for improving the lives of Staffordshire people, so we need to give our employees the skills, tools and confidence to do their jobs well.



People Helping People is how we support citizens to help themselves and one another to improve their communities and act on the things that matter most to them.



Our **digital** programme will make greater use of technology and data to work in more modern, effective and lower cost ways.



Work with and through our **networks** of public, private and community organisations to achieve our ambitions.

Pledge Deliver value for money for residents and businesses and live within our means

And how will we do this?



Creating the right conditions for our economy to grow will increase Business Rates income



As we encourage housebuilding to meet growing demand, more homes will generate more Council Tax



Lobbying Government to secure greater funding and responsibility to act on the issues that matter most to Staffordshire people



Changing the way we use technology and data combined with closer working with communities, in a new offer to Staffordshire citizens



Using council assets such as land, buildings or money held in reserve to generate income



Continuing to reduce costs by finding new and more efficient ways of working, for instance through greater use of technology

Get this right, and reduce demand on public services, and we can target the reducing resources we have at the people who really need them. The importance of a strong and growing economy offering more, better paid jobs cannot be underestimated. Ensuring people are in work and have money in their pocket to lead the lives they want remains the most important thing we can do to reduce demand on public services in a time of reduced funding.

We will be speaking with you as the strategic plan is finalised, to provide more detail and to understand your priorities for the coming year, and how the county council can support you.

As always, if we are to realise our vision and ambitions for the people of Staffordshire, we all need to work with all of our partners, and to make sure the £7.4 billion spent by the public sector in our county every year delivers the greatest possible impact. I look forward to the year ahead and to continuing to work with you for the benefit of Staffordshire people.

And how will we enable this to happen?



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We are all in this together, and you can probably see in this already ways in which you can help, with some support.

The Staffordshire Economy

We all agree and understand that people in gainful employment are healthier, safer and less crime is committed, reducing pressures on vital public services.

The latest March unemployment figures have been released and show our number one priority of having a productive Staffordshire economy is working.

In Staffordshire there are 6,795 people claiming out of work Universal Credit benefits including Job Seekers Allowance, this equates to a rate of 1.3%. The number and rate of claimants has increased by 295 compared to the previous month.

Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Staffordshire County has the second lowest rate in this measure of all West Midlands Strategic Authorities. In England the rate is 2.1% and for all of the West Midlands 2.7%. With so many employed and such a small number of people claiming benefits across Staffordshire, this is good news for everyone in the county and means people are making the most of the opportunities on offer and our long term economic plan in action.

Our economy plans for 2018 and beyond build on past successes

Look around Staffordshire and you'll see new business premises and enterprise parks occupied by global companies, inventors, entrepreneurs, and local creative companies. This is all part of our plan to grow our economy and create opportunities for people to fulfil their aspirations of a better life by generating more "better" paid jobs.

The importance of a strong and growing economy cannot be underestimated. Ensuring people are in work and have money in their pocket to lead the lives they want remains the most important thing we can do to improve family incomes and reduce demand on public services. We will do this by creating the right conditions for businesses to grow and thrive.

2017 saw yet another successful year with not only the further development of new business sites such as i54 South Staffordshire, and Redhill Business Park, but vital improvements to infrastructure like roads and superfast broadband now available at 95 per cent of premises. Our economy is in good shape. Business Parks in Staffordshire are now home to leading international businesses such as Jaguar Land Rover, Gestamp and General Electric which inject millions into the local supply chain. But smaller local companies, which account for 96 per cent of all businesses, also play their part too, reinforcing their role in the local economy.

Since 2014, economy boosting projects with a total value of £383 million have been completed, are under construction or being planned. This should result in the creation of some 13,000 jobs for local people. In line with this, we've also seen near full employment over the same period, with just one per cent of the local population claiming unemployment benefits. This is lower than both regional and national averages.

A high number of our schools are rated as good and last year our skills programme created more than 5,000 apprentices and supported three new Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Skills Hubs. Teams also started visiting schools and talking to pupils to raise aspirations about the higher skilled jobs of the future.

With even more exciting projects like the Smart Innovation Hub at Keele University Science and Innovation Park coming online soon, and the completion of the A50 Project A improvements in Uttoxeter at the end of 2018, we are looking forward to building on these successes.

We're opening doors for business to grow. We're attracting new investment to the county and we are making Staffordshire right for business to improve the lives of everyone living here.

New Uttoxeter Household Waste Recycling Centre

The new £1.5 million household waste recycling centre in Uttoxeter is now operational on brownfield land off Dove Way, to replace the town's previous permanent site at Pennycroft Lane. It's a really modern facility that offers everything people need to recycle and it will be easily accessible for residents from the town and the surrounding area. Like all our centres, the site will accept the usual wide range of recyclable household waste, including cardboard, cooking oil, garden waste and electrical appliances. It will be open five days a week, closing Wednesdays and Thursdays.

It is a statutory duty for the sites to accept household waste for free, this is waste produced in the normal day-to-day occupation of a home. Additional waste such as landscaping or construction work is considered as non-household waste and we do not have to accept this waste

As a result, SCC will charge for the disposal of some non-household waste which includes soil and rubble, plasterboard and tyres at our recycling centres. The charge will contribute to overheads and the cost of disposing of the materials.

Charging will ensure that we can continue to offer disposal facilities for these materials to residents, who would otherwise find them difficult to get rid of and will ensure that the system is not abused by those seeking to dispose of trade waste for free.

A50 Growth Corridor update: April 2018

Despite the recent poor weather, we remain on schedule to complete the work later this year. Surfacing of the new slip roads and three roundabouts has been completed recently and the next main piece of work will take place in June. This is when we will integrate the new slip roads on and off the A50 into the existing dual carriageway. To do this as safely and quickly as possible, while keeping inconvenience to the public to a minimum, there will be a series of overnight closures between the B5030 roundabout at Uttoxeter and the A521 roundabout at Blythe Bridge:

Wednesday, 13 June from 8.00 p.m. to 5.30 a.m.

Westbound carriageway closed. Eastbound carriageway open as usual.

Thursday, 14 June from 8.00 p.m. to 5.30 a.m.

Eastbound carriageway closed. Westbound carriageway open as usual.

Friday, 15 June from 8.00 p.m. to 5.30 a.m.

Carriageway closed in both directions.

Saturday, 16 June from 5.30 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Inside lanes of both carriageways will remain closed.

Saturday, 16 June from 8.00 p.m. to 5.30 a.m.

Carriageway closed in both directions.

Sunday, 17 June from 8.00 p.m. to 5.30 a.m.

Carriageway closed in both directions.

The closures have been scheduled so that on Thursday, June 14 traffic heading towards Stoke-on-Trent will be able to get away from the popular Ladies' Night event at Uttoxeter racecourse without any difficulty. The dates of this work may change due to weather conditions and we will notify you if that is necessary. During the closures, we will put a fully signed diversion route in place, suitable for all vehicles, including HGVs. Highways England will put advance notices warning of the closures on its wider A-road and motorway network to encourage traffic to take alternative routes on the nights of the closures.

Traffic heading east will be diverted northwards from the A50 on to the B5030 for a few hundred yards to the roundabout with the A518. Traffic will turn right there, cross back over the A50 along Dove Way and continue on the A518 clockwise around Uttoxeter and follow the road towards Stafford. Vehicles will then follow the A51 and A34 towards Stoke-on-Trent and then on to the A500. The route is reversed from the west. The Shell petrol station, which stands on the westbound carriageway a few hundred yards west of the B5030 roundabout, will remain open as normal and access will be maintained via the A522.

The A50 is the most important transport link between the East and West Midlands. The planned improvements will also benefit major employers and their employees between Stoke-on-Trent and Derbyshire, making journeys quicker, easier and safer. Staffordshire County Council is delivering these improvements on behalf of Highways England.

Project B is located to the East of Project A. Highways England is currently considering how to take this project forward.

Highways Defect reporting

The highways call centre will no longer be accepting emails as a way of **reporting defects**. They are encouraging the public to use the new reporting systems in place as well as the 0300 111 8000 number.

To highlight the issues and also help us, the best way for residents to report faults such as these is via the My Staffs app if you have a smartphone

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/MyStaffs-App/MyStaffs-App.aspx>

or via the internet:

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

You will receive an acknowledgement and updates by email. As mentioned earlier there is an additional £5m extra funding allocated this financial year towards road repair on top of £5M last year, so it is important to report potholes and understand there is a large number and that they are prioritised.

Details of how they are given priority are here:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/contact/Response/Response.aspx>

If there are problems about lack of repair you can then raise the matter if needed through the reference number(s) you will be given. There is a regular update here:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/roadworks/schemeinfo/Potholes.aspx>

I hope this helps you help your residents!

Other Highlights for 2017:

74.5 per cent of Staffordshire pupils achieved a Good Level of Development at the Early Years Foundation Stage. There was an improvement compared with 2016 (73.8 per cent) and results were again ranked within the top quartile nationally. Staffordshire had the highest proportion of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development out of all of its statistical neighbours; a pattern also evident in 2015 and 2016.

The number of delayed transfers of care in Staffordshire that were attributable wholly or jointly to social care in November 2017 was higher than the national average. Staffordshire had 1,452 delayed days (a rate of 239 delayed days per month per 100,000 populations compared to the England average of 145 delayed days per 100,000 populations). However, this was the third consecutive month that recorded a reduction in social care delays, which peaked at 277 days per month per 100,000 in August. The latest position is in line with the Better Care Fund target trajectory agreed with NHS England.

In December 2017, there were 1,092 looked after children in Staffordshire which is a rate of 65 children per 10,000 population. Recent information released by the Department for Education has shown an increase nationally in the number of looked after children and this increase has also been seen in both Staffordshire's statistical neighbour comparator group and across the West Midlands as a whole. In December 2017, 8.0 per cent (87) of looked after children were Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), compared to 8.9 per cent (89) in December 2016.

In December 2017, the rate of recorded crime reduced to 4.1 crimes per 1,000 population and the rate of reported anti-social behaviour incidents remained stable with 2.0 incidents per 1,000 population.

Education School places

Nine out of 10 parents in Staffordshire have been offered their first choice primary school, despite rises in pupil numbers putting pressure on school places with the majority of parents allocated their first choice school, with 98 per cent in total allocated one of their top three preferred schools.

A total of 9,278 places have been allocated, with 8,565 of those receiving their first choice primary school and 9,110 getting one of their top three. This is despite a rise in birth rate of up to 11 per cent in Staffordshire over the past decade putting more pressure on

school places. Parents have an automatic right of appeal for a school of their choice even where they have been allocated their second or third choices. Key contact numbers are:

For information on the **Admissions** process – 0300 111 8007

For information on the **Appeals** process – (01785) 895335

IRONMAN® 70.3 Staffordshire moving to Stafford Town Centre on Sunday 10 June 2018

Established in 2015, the event quickly grew to become the biggest IRONMAN 70.3 race in the UK. After three years, the event has seen nearly 8000 athletes competing, also attracting some of the UK and the world's best professional athletes. It also became the fastest selling IRONMAN 70.3 race in the UK selling out within minutes in 2015.

Since it was announced earlier this year that the 2017 edition would be the last to finish at Shugborough Estate, anticipation for the new venue announcement has been high. From 2018 onwards Stafford Town Centre will be the host venue for the athlete village, expo, second transition area, run course and finish line, bringing the festive race atmosphere right into the heart of the town.

Logistically, this makes it easier for athletes, their supporters and spectators to make their way to the athlete village as well as allowing supporters to get closer to the race than ever before.

The move will also see a change to the run course with the second transition area located at Riverway and the run course consisting of three laps in and around the town centre, finishing in Market Square. The bike course for the most part retains all the elements that have made it an attraction over the last three years with the exception of some improvements. The swim will remain at Chasewater Country Park..

If there are any issues or questions please contact
staffordshire70.3@ironmanroadaccess.com or call 033 3011 6600.

Getting the Best Deal for Staffordshire from HS2

Your county council remains totally committed to getting the best deal for Staffordshire from HS2. This extends to getting the best deal for the county in terms of mitigation, compensation for residents, economic benefits and improved connectivity.

To achieve this, we have petitioned against Phase 1 and successfully achieved the lowering of eight km of the line in Lichfield. Staffordshire County Council also secured an assurance that the Handsacre link, connecting HS2 to the West Coast Main Line, would be constructed. This will provide the infrastructure needed for Staffordshire to receive HS2 services and gain economic benefit as a result.

When the Phase 2a hybrid Bill was deposited to Parliament in July last year, along with the associated Environmental Statement (ES), the ES was subject to a 10 week consultation. The county council submitted a joint response with Lichfield District Council, Stafford Borough Council, and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. This response will form the basis of our petition to the House of Commons and we appeared before the Select Committee in April, giving evidence.

We have also been meeting regularly with HS2 Ltd to discuss pressing issues (construction routes in particular) to try and progress agreements to give us the best chance of reaching agreement prior to a select committee appearance.

To further support our residents, each County Councillor whose division is affected by HS2 has been allocated a small budget to help affected communities. Councillors can use this to, raise awareness, hire village halls/venues and produce mitigation documents, fund reasonable transport costs to support participation in the Phase2a parliamentary process.

Superfast Staffordshire Website Shows When New Broadband Will Arrive

Householders and businesses in East Staffordshire can find out exactly which areas will be getting faster internet speeds—the first communities already feeling the benefit. You can find when and where the faster fibre broadband will be available at the Superfast Staffordshire website www.superfaststaffordshire.co.uk/

Staffordshire County Council, BT and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) are working in partnership to deliver superfast broadband services across Staffordshire as part of the national programme managed by BDUK. When added to the commercial roll-out we now have 95% of premises receiving speeds in excess of 24 Mbps.

Unfortunately there was insufficient funding available to achieve 100 per cent coverage, which means that additional funding and further developments in technology will be required to address the remaining 26,000 premises (final 5 per cent). I am well aware that this affects Uttoxeter Rural.

Recently BT has made £2.4 million “gain-share” funding available to Superfast Staffordshire to reinvest in extending the network further. This will be used to start and reduce the number of premises in the final 5 per cent. This reinvestment is taking place much earlier than anticipated, as the demand for superfast broadband services has been greater than originally predicted.

MyStaffs App and the shift to digital

You can access all your council services on the move with the ‘My Staffs App’, free and available on Apple devices, android and Google platforms from the Apple App store and Google Play.

What is the MyStaffs app? It’s a much quicker and easier way in which customers can talk to us with new technology using smart phones. If you need to report an issue, make a transaction, or request information, with the free app you access key services anytime, anywhere.

You can even specify your location so that you receive information about the services which just apply in your area.

What’s more is that the app doesn’t just feature key county services but some at district and borough level too, which means you can access everything all in one place, at the touch of a button.

What's available on the app?

Services available through the app include:

- School Term Date Information
- School Closures
- Childcare
- Advice and information for parents of under 5s
- Local Venues and Attractions
- Waste Services
- School Meal Menus and Pricing
- Registration Services
- Council Tax Information
- Roads and Highways

So, if you're always on the go – save time today and download the MyStaffs App for Apple and Android devices

Welcome to the Staffordshire Connects

Staffordshire Connects is an online directory of local care, support and wellbeing services, activities and events across Staffordshire aimed at the whole family at <https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/home.page>

Staffordshire Connects makes it easier for people to find and access support and wellbeing services from hundreds of organisations, all in one place. With just a few clicks of a button, you can browse, compare, book and buy activities.

Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS)

SCVYS is a charitable company committed to supporting excellent outcomes for children and young people in the county since being established in 1982. Through an arrangement with Staffordshire County Council, SCVYS provides support services to over 100 voluntary youth organisations delivering in over 700 places.

Certainly young people are leading the way on social action or people helping people as we call it here in Staffordshire. Latest Office of National Statistics figures show that whilst overall volunteering is slightly down, amongst young people it is significantly up. SCVYS census data collected from our members also shows a dramatic rise, with over 1500 under 18s volunteering regularly in local member group activities, up over 60% on last year..

There is certainly a shift in emphasis from public services towards greater personal responsibility, family resilience and resourceful communities to resolve their own issues, and only involve public services with those who most need the help.

So, once again young people are leading the way. They get so much bad press maybe it is time to loudly and proudly celebrate their contribution to Staffordshire's local communities.

More details at www.staffscvys.org.uk

A515 and HCVs

With economic growth comes traffic and the issue of Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) and there have been extensive discussions to find a solution to issues around HCVs using the A515 as a shortcut from the A50 to the A38.

This is not proving as easy as it sounds, as alongside powers come duties. The trunk road network, including the A50 and the A38, carries the majority of HCVs through Staffordshire. However the A515 also forms part of the country's Network and provides an important sub regional route that facilitates the direct and efficient movement of people, goods and services; contributing to the economic prosperity of the area.

The county council has a range of powers and duties as the Local Highway Authority including the power to prohibit or restrict HCVs from using certain routes and the power to reclassify a route; but this sits alongside a duty to secure the movement of traffic ensuring efficient use of the network.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 places a duty on the county council to ensure traffic can move quickly and freely on its own highway network and that of nearby local highway authorities. The county council and Highways Agency has agreed emergency diversion routes in place along the A515 in the event of a closure on the A38. It is not possible to divert non-motorway traffic onto the higher class motorway network during such a closure. The A515 is also a national priority route for high sided vehicles.

Proactive re-directing of HCV traffic from the A515 would be difficult to enforce and could ultimately lead to a concentration of HCV flows in other localities, making the situation even worse for those affected communities.

The County Council has commissioned a traffic survey which recorded speed, volume and routing of traffic on the A515/A513. Footage from CCTV cameras installed by the Council will also be used. From that data one potential solution is a temporary HCV weight limit on the A517 at Kings Bromley, which accounts for 70% of the HCV traffic, and see whether this could be made permanent. This is now following due process.

I have continued to press for additional deterrents on top of the traffic lights on Dove Bridge and the speed cameras in Draycott. These measures are in the form of the average speed cameras on the A515, village gateways and better access from the A38 to Fradley. The aim is to deter HCVs by hindrance and delay from using the A515 while improving their passage on the A50 and A38.

The Staffordshire Freight Forum was formulated following a recommendation of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Report

An outcome from the last Staffordshire Freight and Communities Forum was for the creation of an A515 working group to discuss issues at a local level, leaving the Freight Forum to operate at a strategic level across Staffordshire.

Locally last year's **Staffordshire Local Community Fund** went to:

Stanton Village Hall	Village/Community/Church Halls	£500.00
Wootton Cricket Club	Sport	£500.00
St Giles Hospice	People with a disability	£810.00
Friends of Stafford Samaritans	Community (other)	£200.00
Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Safer Communities CIC	Community Safety	£385.00
Marchington Tennis and Bowls Club	Sport	£300.00
Mayfield Memorial Hall	Village/Community/Church Halls	£400.00
Marchington Village Hall	Village/Community/Church Halls	£500.00
Rocester FCS - Ladies Football Club	Sport	£800.00
Rocester Football Club	Sport	£181.60
Rocester Parish Council	Village/Community/Church Halls	£750.00
Rocester FC	Sport	£991.00
Burton Albion Community Trust	Social/Community Projects	£600.00
Denstone Parish Council	Young Children & Families	£582.40

Much is happening in the area. If anyone wants to apply for funding from this year's £7500 for local schemes, the forms are available from the County Website. This is only a snap shot of the many things that I come across in a year and if anyone wishes to know more on any subject do not hesitate to contact me.

Philip Atkins

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<p align="center">EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR BAGOTS WARD - REPORT</p>

Verbal report to be provided at the Parish Assembly

<p align="center">Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday, 23rd May 2018 at the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given</p>
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Present: Cllr P Charles, Cllr J Houlihan, Cllr R Jarman, Cllr Mrs Moore, Cllr Mrs R Robb, Cllr P Ryan, Cllr B Walters, Borough Cllr G Hall, 118 members of the public

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Meads (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr A Appleby,

1. Chairman's Welcome and Report.

Cllr P Charles presented the Chair's report (see full report earlier the document).

A resident asked about the 30mph signs on the Lichfield Road, would it be possible to have more reminders of the new speed on the way out of the village. Another resident asked if it would be possible for a narrowing of the road to be considered to help reduce speed.

2. Presentation of the Certificate for last year's winner of the Jubilee Cup

Cllr P Charles presented the certificate to last year's winner of the cup, Mrs Elizabeth Palmer.

3. Presentation of the Jubilee Cup

Cllr P Charles then presented the Jubilee Cup to Mr Richard Hall. He thanked Mr Hall for providing the walk to the reservoir via his land. This is greatly appreciated by the village. Mr Hall said that he was very pleased to receive the cup and surprised how much the walk is being used.

4. Grant Cheque Presentations

Cllr Charles presented grant cheques to village organisations. The following organisations received grants: Abbots Bromley Scouts £250.00 for repair and maintenance of camping equipment; Abbots Bromley Rainbows £250.00 for purchase of aprons and high visibility jackets; Richard Clarke First School £250 towards the outdoor classroom and Abbots Bromley Sports Association £500.00 towards the sports facilities. Each organisation collected the cheques and thanked the Parish Council and provided updates on what the money would be spent on.

5. Abbots Bromley United Charities

Cllr Charles presented the accounts for the United Charities. He confirmed that 40 parishioners had received donations. Donations also received by The Friendship Group, Evergreens, Abbots Bromley Scouts and Guides and Abbots Bromley Sports Association.

6. Parish Council Accounts

The Unaudited Parish Council Accounts were made available at the meeting.

7. Report from Borough Cllr Hall

Cllr Hall reported that ESBC has not increased council tax this year. A grant of £20,000 had been provided for ABSA for second phase on top of the £10,000 for first phase. Congratulated ABSA on the work they had done so far, way ahead of any other sports grounds projects in the area. East Staff Local Plan adopted in 2015, 6 years of preparation. Since this there has been a large drop off of applications for developments outside of the plan and no large scale schemes have gained permission. Not as straight

forward as saying once the LP is in place only things in the LP can happen because there are ways that the calculations are done on a 5 year land supply. If the five year land supply drops then it becomes a 'free for all'. Applications may be positively considered if this drops. At the moment the 5 year land supply for ESBC is sound but may not be the case forever. 17 neighbourhood plans now in Staffordshire and some have been made for some time. Some have been very successful and other not so much with some encountering problems when trying to interpret the policies of the NP and communities have experienced problems getting planners to make decisions that they thought their NP's were going to achieve and to interpret the NP in the way that they wanted. He confirmed that he is pleased to support the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group in Abbots Bromley. Thanked everyone for their time.

Cllr Charles said that before starting on the Neighbourhood Plan he would like to mention Community Speed Watch. So far one person has volunteered but if anyone else would like to come forward please pass on details to Sarah Meads, the Clerk.

8. Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr Bryn Walters

The group is bringing the draft plan together. Everyone will have a chance to comment on it. There will be 6-8 weeks of consultation. Nothing has been decided and set down at this point. Needs community comments and has to go through a referendum. The group are trying to put in as much information as possible. Everyone that votes in an election will get their chance to have their say. There has been a lot of background research. The draft needs to include the maximum amount of information. 17 parishes completed their neighbourhood plans and it has been useful for Abbots Bromley to learn from what others have done.

The process has taken time and we have lost two members, timing has slipped and the timescale will be undated. Cllr Walters thanked those that had to stand down. The Parish Council has asked for the timetable to be updated and this will be made available to everyone. The group eventually recruited two new members after much advertising in the village.

The site assessment feedback was provided over 12 months ago when Abbots Bromley School came to talk to the village at the meeting held in the Village Hall. The site where the cricket pitch is has become available as the cricket will be moving on to Lichfield Road.

The group is close with the draft now and working with the sites identified, making sure that all the information is available to the community. Could have brought forward the consultation earlier and not provided all of the information.

Member of the public commented; what you are saying is that nobody has any information as you haven't put any information out there. The only person who has put information out there is Mr Wheeldon.

Cllr Walters said he would run through all the information that has been put out.

October 2015 community meeting, consultation went out to the community. As part of the public meeting asked for volunteers to join the group and then a working group was formed.

Jan-March 2016, initial consultation, the group put a questionnaire through every single front door, to find out what people wanted in the village. This went to 750 homes.

A member of the public asked how many responses were received. Cllr Walters confirmed that 96 were returned giving a 13% return rate. Main concerns raised were housing, traffic and parking. Mr Wheeldon said 750 went through front doors, 250 displayed by buckets and 36 through conversations. 1036 pieces

of paper, 96 back, so percentage 9.6 %. Cllr Walters agreed that it was not great but better than other communities. Feedback session in the Village Hall, detailed issues raised. Decided to look at what the issue is with housing so did a housing needs assessment June – Oct 2016. Again this went through all doors and also via Horn Dance day stand. Housing needs questionnaire 145 returned. Cllr Walters confirmed that the results of survey are on the website.

Church House event, Dec 2016. Those that attended helped to weight importance of selection criteria for sites. What issues do we need to look at when assessing sites? eg heritage, transport etc. Community helped with this process along with East Staffs Borough Council. Issues were weighted by those that attended that event. Mr Wheeldon confirmed that twelve members of the public attended that event along with members of the group. Cllr Walters said that attendance wasn't great but the event was advertised widely including noticeboards, social media, the Bulletin and website.

Cllr Mrs Moore commented that there has been a lack of engagement so far but as so many people have turned up tonight then we need to harness this enthusiasm.

Cllr Walters confirmed that the group looked at potential sites, visiting sites individually and not as a group, collated results and two sites came out as preferred sites.

A member of the public asked how long the process took. Cllr Walters said that it took a few days. Member of the public said that the assessment is your assessment and not the village. Cllr Walters said that the community that attended the event at Church House identified the selection criteria and then the group used this to select the sites. Member of the public reiterated that the sites were chosen by the group and not by the village. You never put those sites out to the village.

Cllr Walters confirmed that the group made the decision on the preferred sites following the selection process carried out by 10 members but informed by the Church House consultation.

Member of the public asked if the sites are published anywhere. Cllr Walters confirmed that sites are published on the noticeboard by the Buttercross and also on the website.

Cllr Walters said that he would stop there and asked for questions.

Comments from members of the public:-

- If the group is not engaging then we need to address why we are not, we tried, we didn't get there, step back and regroup in order to make better advance. Ground swell of serious engagement now. Re-group, approach the community differently. The member of the public volunteered to be part of the group in the future.
- Cllr Walters said that would be great, who wants to be join us on the group. The member of public confirmed he would come forward.
- Member of the public people don't engage with bits of paper; there are a lot of elderly people in the community, don't see notice boards or use social media
- Member of the public said Mr Wheeldon is very passionate about the village and many of us were surprised when he resigned from the committee. Would it be possible for Mr Wheeldon to say why he stood down from the committee? Cllr Walters said that Mr Wheeldon was very dignified when he stood down but Cllr Walters said that he didn't ask why he stood down. A member of the public said that this was put in a letter to Cllr Walters.

- Mr Wheeldon stood up and said that he resigned from the group as his moral obligations had been compromised. He said he had asked for reviewing, going back, regrouping which he asked for in front of committee members. He compromised his moral obligations once too often. This was in the letter. He said he also offered the committee the opportunity that I would re-engage with the group. He said that he does believe in the Neighbourhood Plan and knows that the Chair, Cllr Walters has a hard job and he respects that but he didn't listen to him. It would help if Cllr Walters to what he has to say later in the meeting. Mr Wheeldon said he is proud of those speaking up at the meeting. Cllr Walters said that we were very appreciative of the work you did on the group. He said that as the chair of the group he has tried to take the majority view. It is not an easy job and a thankless task. He does agree that it is important that we make choices. Nationally there is a house building problem, we need to try and mould it to what we want.
- Cllr Walters agrees that it is an important process and when there are other villages around us with neighbourhood plans this makes us vulnerable. He wants us to be able to have a say in what development comes forward
- A member of the public asks why we would be vulnerable compared to somewhere like Newborough? Cllr Walters said that the local plan says that a certain amount of houses need to be delivered in Staffordshire, this plan goes up to the 2030s. In terms of Abbots Bromley we are required to provide 40 houses across two sites. One site has already been built, the one down Lichfield Road. The other site is on Uttoxeter Road which hasn't come forward yet.
- Member of the public said that the 40 have already been met with infill sites and what you haven't done with your site selection process with mention the site that is sat waiting and vacant and could provide affordable homes or whatever. Your site selection process is flawed and doesn't meet the statutory requirements and you didn't put these sites forward for the community to vote on. You have chosen two sites for your draft plan and these are the ones that we vote yes or no on.
- Cllr Walters said that if the community comes forward and says that we don't like these sites, we don't like this process and clearly we will have to think again.
- Member of the public asked why some other sites weren't put in the draft plan. The site selection process is flawed, it has discriminatory factors in it which means one site is benefited over the other and in addition to that, those 8 sites you selected to assess you did a table top exercise for and you didn't apply the selection criteria of suitability, availability and viability
- Member of the public said – your own report that is on the website is actually dated July 2017 after the consultation evening in March 2017, so anybody who was there in March '17 didn't have sight of that report because it wasn't on the website until July '17 and it doesn't give any detail on those 8 sites with regard to suitability, availability and viability.
- Cllr Walters said with respect the difference between March and July was the difference it took to actually write the report.
- Member of the public – the point is if you are relying on that consultation in March, nobody had that information available to them.
- Cllr Walters said that we have taken advice from ESBC but it is not a perfect process. We have taken advice from other parishes and ESBC and we have tried to do the best we can.

- Member of the public said then the advice would be to do what the gentleman said earlier and take it back, do the site selection again and revisit it with the community.
- Cllr Walters said that we have to want it to make it work and we need more people.
- Borough Cllr Hall commented that he thinks that it's great that we are doing a neighbourhood plan. Plan needs to get to the next stage. He is happy to help. He believes that the process has been a fair and a good one. Cllr Hall says that it is good thing that so many people are at the meeting. He said that you could consult endlessly on what could go in a draft but someone still has to make the decision as to what goes in the draft. Easy to pick holes in something that someone else has done.
- Member of the public says that you are putting in two sites so there is no choice.
- Member of the public and you have completely ignored the SHLAA sites as well and you have to give a detailed explanation for this, you have to give full reasons for why you have ignored existing SHLAA sites.
- Member of the public says that the group isn't listening and should consult on more sites, where is the choice.
- Borough Cllr Hall you are missing the point, what I am trying to say is the choice comes at consultation stage.
- Member of the public there has got to be some trust that the steps that have got to this stage, the process, are valid, are supportable, that's where there is some question mark.
- Borough Cllr Hall there may well be but all I can say is that I have seen what the NDP group have done and they have done it in good faith in the interests of the Parish of Abbots Bromley. Nobody wants to do anything other than a good thing for the Parish. I am sensing that there is a lot of aggravation towards the people who have done the work so far and I don't think that's fair. The important thing is that it moves forward. If we can just get to the next stage, which is when there is a draft plan ready for consultation, that's when the community can have its say.
- Member of the public you are not listening to the floor here, they don't want to get to that stage until they have had the chance for more sites to be put in for them to decide and for them to give an indication of what they would like to have in place.
- Member of the public commented that everyone has to remember that all this work has been done by volunteers, they are not paid for it and they give up their own time and we should be very grateful for this. People don't come forward and volunteer to do things and don't fill in surveys. We should say thank you for what they have done.
- Cllr Hall commented that the village originally had an allocation of 200-300 homes but this was reduced to AB becoming a tier two village with an allocation of 40 homes which were generally market homes for the plan period and I think this is probably a bit on the low side. The opportunity which it gives to a NP is that people can decide whether they want some more homes for local people, for local needs rather than market homes and I think this is where the positive side of the NP comes.

- A member of public asked how far down the line are you with talking to landowners and property developers on the two sites you are talking about.
- Cllr Walters confirmed that the group had spoken to Abbots Bromley School and the developers. Member of the public asked if there is a plan. Cllr Walters said that it will come through as part of the draft plan. He said that we are trying to bring forward the maximum amount of information we can otherwise people would say that we haven't provided the information.
- Member of the public asked if you have given all 8 sites the same opportunities so if you haven't done this, why not, seem to be railroaded in to two sites. He doesn't have a problem with two sites being considered but not happy with one site being more developed in terms of discussions. Does have a problem with one site being significantly more advanced than the others. Greg as a District Councillor could have a conflict of interest as he may have to vote on it at some point. What he is concerned about is it not being a level playing field.
- Cllr Walters said that Cllr Hall will have the same vote as a resident as anyone else. Acknowledged comments and explained that the sites had been chosen as a group. Draft plan for consultation we need to put in as much information as possible and if we hadn't spoken to the school then people would complain that there wasn't enough information. The plan needs to go to SCC Highways as well. Need to consult on the number of houses. Needs to ensure that the plan included the maximum amount of information.
- Member of the public asked if any work been done on traffic flow on the roads. Cllr Walters said that this work has to be done by Staffordshire County Council Highways as they will be consultees. Member of public said how many houses are there going to be on the site, is it going to be 40.
- Cllr Walters I have heard the number 40 mentioned, 60, 80, 90 all different varieties of numbers.
- Member of the public how many houses have you asked the school to provide on that site? Let everyone know what figures have you given to the school, Cllr Walters denied that they had given a figure to the school. You have written to the school and asked them for 30 affordable homes.
- Cllr Walters what we said to the school is, we think that in terms of the local housing need, in terms of the consultation we have had, we had to make some sort of judgement of what that need looked like.
- Member of the public – finger in the air.
- Cllr Walters it probably was a finger in the air but that's the whole point of having a consultation – bring forward the draft, everybody would have the opportunity to have a say.
- Mr Wheeldon commented that it was at this point you should have consulted, you can't wait until the document is completed. Additional member of the public commented that this is where the red line should have been drawn so as not to waste everyone's time.
- Member of the public asked if there is any information on the website as to why the other sites were rejected. Cllr Walters confirmed that the information is on the website. Member of the public said that he had written to Cllr Walters via email to ask for the information but had not received it. Cllr Walters apologised that he had not yet picked up the email.
- Member of the public asked where would the access to the site be?

- Cllr Walters confirmed that this would be off Radmore Lane by the equestrian centre.
- Member of the public said that this is where the red line should be.
- Member of the public said that you should find these red lines earlier in the process.
- Multiple questioned (people talking over each other), how can that access be deemed to be suitable; unsafe junction even now; and how can that site override the SHLAA site already identified at the other end of the village?
- Member of the public asked if Mr Wheeldon could speak.

Comments by Mr T Wheeldon

“As the Parish Council is the elected body with the formal power and responsibility for the production of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan I wish to direct my comments to the Parish Council Chairman”

Mr Chairman,

A Neighbourhood Plan gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and to shape the development and growth of the local area.

In order to achieve this it is a statutory requirement that a robust and effective regular two way consultation and engagement process is undertaken with residents at every stage.

The process should be 100% community led, and a true reflection of a ‘proportionate’ and robust evidence base; ultimately leading to statutory community consultation and referendum.

Over recent months many residents from the main conurbation of Abbots Bromley and the wider Parish, have sought to engage me in conversation in relation to their understanding of the Neighbourhood Planning process.

The feedback that I received from these conversations stimulated me to challenge the effectiveness of the engagement and consultation process currently being employed in the production of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

More recently I have conducted a 3 week Independent Straw Poll of parishioners views in relation to their feelings regarding **effective engagement and consultation** for three distinct stages:

- The production of an Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- The proposed site/sites selected for future development.
- The proposed number and types of property to be built.

Initially, I set about the daunting task of door to door canvassing for community opinion.

I was quickly supported by residents who took responsibility for their own neighbourhood.

Identical forms were also available at a number of popular village outlets and were publicised as such via the social media platform ‘Spotted Abbots Bromley’ (which I understand has a considerable following?).

At all times residents were informed that the questionnaire was available at their liberty to complete and return. Simple indication of either YES or NO was requested to the specific questions which indicated a clear purpose.

I have been quite amazed by the interest that this initiative has generated. To date I have received completed forms representing the 'free' opinion of **386** bona fide residents of the Parish.

There were 3 additional forms received (one from an underage resident and two from outside of the Parish these have not been included in the results).

I wish to share with you the fully anonymised results of the questionnaire, in order that it may help shape a successful outcome for the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

In question order:-

Q1. Have you been fully engaged and consulted in relation to the production of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.

From **386** responses

YES 18 some with amplifying comments indicating the engagement level that those respondents considered appropriate to their answer.

NO 366

There were **2** responders who answered between the two options which I have rightly included in the total.

Q2. Have you been fully engaged and consulted in relation to a proposal for development of land off Radmore Lane and off Schoolhouse Lane.

From **386** responses

YES 4

NO 381

There was **1** responder who answered between the two options which I have rightly included in the total.

Q3. Have you been fully engaged and consulted in relation to the proposed number/types of property to be developed on land off Radmore Lane and off Schoolhouse Lane.

From **386** responses

YES 2 one with amplifying comments provided; and another with a full narrative attached.

NO 383

There was **1** responder who answered between the two options which I have rightly included in the total.

Mr Chairman,

I respectfully offer this report to you for your consideration. I request that you inform the community what you intend to do in relation to the information that I have honestly provided on their behalf?

I will of course make this report available to the Parish Clerk in order that it is placed in the minutes of this meeting.

Tom Wheeldon

23rd May 2018

- Member of the public asks if Cllr Walters can answer the question as to how they got down from 8 sites to 2 sites. Cllr Walters confirmed that the sites were assessed and scored and 2 sites came out higher. This was the view of the group and we compiled a report. We have tried to bring forward our view as a group, quite open to the fact that it is our view.
- Member of the public said that the question is, are you going to go back and revisit the site selection? Surely you are going to take it on board and go back a stage. Cllr Walters said that it is up to the Parish Council to make the decision as they are the designated body. Member of the public said that it is clear that people are not happy. Cllr Walters said that he has heard what everyone has said. Cllr Walters said that he has done it in the best way he could.
- What criteria was used to assess the sites, is that available on the website? Cllr Walters confirmed that the information is available on the website.
- Member of public asked where the second site is. Cllr Walters confirmed that the second site that was chosen was on the end of Bagots View.
- Member of the public asked how many people attend the site selection meeting at Church House, Mr Wheeldon confirmed that 12 members of public attended this event.
- Member of the public said that on 23 Feb 2015 a survey was done on School House Lane. On that day from 07:40 until 18:00 880 vehicles used that lane and 628 pedestrians walked up and down. Information on that survey was sent to the Neighbourhood Planning Group.
- Resident from Radmore Lane commented that there are possible developments at Site No 2 and Site No 3, to the side and front of his house. On the plan he had seen there is a retirement home and also a drop off point for coaches. The school seems to be adding more to their site plan. If the school are going to pursue a major development then Radmore Lane is going to have to carry a considerable amount of traffic. He was present at the meeting in March 17 and no sign from the school of the new road they had mentioned at that meeting that would be opposite Ivy House. Cllr Walters confirmed that he had received a letter from the resident with his concerns. Cllr Walters said that we haven't got to the stage of a plan from the school that the Neighbourhood Group are happy with.
- Member of the public is the school premature, they drew these plans up themselves? I drew these sorts of plans for 65 years, on paper it might be meaningless but unfortunately the school have produced it and somehow it has got into the public domain. I wish I hadn't seen it. He said that he reiterates comments earlier that it is a thankless task and appreciates the work that has been done so far.
- Member of the public invited the school bursar to comment – he declined as he is not a governor of the school.
- A member of the public asked if Cllr Walters offered planning advice to the school. Cllr Walters said that the school has its own planning advisers so I don't offer them planning advice.

- Member of the public suggested that Mr Wheeldon goes back on to the Neighbourhood Planning Group so that residents know that there is someone on the committee that they have confidence in and can trust that the process is being handled properly. He said that he had only seen one lot of drawings for the one site and asked if there were any plans for the other 7 sites. Does that mean that there aren't any or that they have been ignored? He suggested that these are the sort of things that should be relooked at.
- Cllr Walters confirmed that the group have only looked at how the sites they have selected can be developed and not at the other sites.
- Member of the public suggested that if it is a flawed choice then it is no choice. How do we move forward? What assurance can be given that what has been said tonight will be considered? Is it just down to the Parish Council?
- Cllr Walters said that what happens next is that the Parish Council is the designated body and they can change us, dissolve us, do it themselves. Member of the public said that what we need to understand is how the Parish Council is going to take on these comments, if it's not in your domain. Cllr Walters said that he would pass this over to the Chair. Mr Wheeldon asked if the Chair could also answer his question about what he was going to do with the statics he had provided.
- Cllr Charles said in view of the comments that have been heard and the questions that have been raised, I think we will re-address the whole thing and start again possibly, we may. Cllr Moore said that it needs to be voted on at the next PC meeting. All thoughts will be taken on board and then voted on. Cllr Walters said that we need go away and consider this. Parish Council meets next Wednesday and you are more than welcome to attend this meeting and decisions will be in minutes.
- A member of the public asked where the details are of all the other sites. Cllr Walters confirmed that these are on the noticeboard by the Buttercross. A member of the public asked if these included the SHLAA sites as well. Cllr Walters confirmed this.
- Member of the public asked if there had been a count up of the number of houses on the school site. The number of 30 was mentioned.
- A member of the public said I am very pleased that you are going to take on board. Everyone is here because they are concerned because the NDP group have not followed the guidelines. When this is discussed what is going to be the feedback to us.
- Cllr Walters said it will be discussed at the next meeting and decisions will be made at the meeting based upon what people have said and the representations that people have made and that may involve going backwards on the NDP or whatever it takes to actually take into account what people have said. This will be reported in the minutes. The member of the public said that only part of the meeting is open to the public. Cllr Walters confirmed that members of the public can only speak in the public session but they can attend the whole meeting. There will also be something in the Bulletin.
- A member of the public said that communication needs to be a two way street, need to put people more in the picture and presenting it in a way that clearly informs people.

- Resident from Bagots View said that they would be directly affected and there would considerable objections to any development here for a number of reasons including motivation, boundary, implications on traffic and also things have been said in NDP meetings that are incorrect about the views of the residents of Bagots View. I have an email in my possession sent to me by someone in this room who has a strong influence on this process and this states that they did not wish for development of affordable homes to happen on the field by Bagots View. That's what we were told in Bagots View and now we are being told something different.
- Member of the public said that the minutes seem to be very tardy in when they are put on the website. The Clerk said that they normally go up about two weeks after. This was challenged by a member of the public and said that they were not up after January and the Parish Assembly minutes won't be available until the next year. The Clerk said that Parish Council minutes have to be posted with the agenda before the next meeting so they are always available on line as a draft.
- Member of the public asked if a traffic survey been done has been done on Radmore Lane and the main street. Cllr Walters said that when we get to the consultation stage we will bring in Staffordshire County Council Highways to do this work.
- Member of the public says not everyone is computer literate and not everyone is mobile enough to get to the notice board, so somehow you have got to approach those people and let them know what is going on, otherwise you are going to continually have this dissatisfaction. She knows how much work has gone in to the neighbourhood plan, however, School House Lane very busy with cars, delivery vehicles and tractors, road surface very poor. Traffic has increased considerably. Becoming dangerous for people to walk up and down that road.
- Member of the public asks if we need to put a number of houses in the neighbourhood plan. Cllr Walters said that we don't have to put in the number of houses, we can allocate sites and people can comment on this. The group have tried to identify how these sites can be used.
- Member of the public asks what chance you would have of getting the neighbourhood plan through on a vote.
- Cllr Walters said that based on people in the room then it's going to be No, isn't it?

The Chair asked if there were any further comments. With no further comments he thanked everyone for coming.

Signed.....

Date

Chair of the Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday, 24th May 2017 at the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley,
pursuant to notice having been given**

Present: A Bebbington, Cllr G Hall, D Wharton, A Blower, Cllr R Jarman, Cllr P Charles, M Shaw, J Hough, V Webb, K Webb, K McLoughlin, H Davis, S Wilson, P Brandrick, T Wheeldon, Cllr R Robb, PCSO L Hadfield.

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Meads (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr A Appleby, Rev S Davies, Mr and Mrs Roy

9. Chairman's Welcome and Report.

Cllr Mrs Moore presented the Chair's report (see full report earlier the document)

10. Presentation of the Certificate for last year's winner of the Jubilee Cup

Cllr Mrs Moore presented the certificate to last year's winners of the Jubilee Cup, Mr Peter Brandrick and his family.

11. Presentation of the Jubilee Cup

Cllr Mrs Moore then presented the Jubilee Cup to Mrs Elizabeth Palmer. She thanked Mrs Palmer for all her work in the village over the past years, in particular for her work with The First Responders.

12. Abbots Bromley United Charities

Cllr Charles presented the accounts for the United Charities. He confirmed that 44 parishioners had received donations. Donations also received by The Friendship Group, Evergreens, Nostalgia Group and Jelly Tots.

13. Parish Council Accounts

The Unaudited Parish Council Accounts were made available at the meeting.

14. Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr Bryn Walters

Hello, for those that don't know me -I'm Bryn Walters and I'm the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan working group and also a Parish Councillor.

- Event in March was well attended and we received some very valuable feedback. It took us some time to work our way through it but to briefly summarise the main points raised with us and what we've done since:
 - 1) So one of the main comments was that the community welcomed progress made with the plan but were concerned about a number of key issues

Show your working!

- Housing needs assessment report of the consultation
The data and the findings of the housing needs survey
- Results and report of the site selection process

The methodology used to assess sites and the full results of the assessment of all of the sites

- An assessment of the local landscape character & built environment

A piece of work carried out by the group to look at and identify important features of the local environment

We've asked East Staffordshire BC to review the documents for us but all will be available on the website in full shortly.

2) Notwithstanding the point about the evidence base people also had concerns about

- Radmore Lane junction, footpath provision, restricted access

We've asked Abbots Bromley School to look in detail at these matters as "in principal" issues. What that means is that we won't consider a detailed scheme or other matters related to the potential development until such issues have been explored with the Highways Authority.

This therefore means that if acceptable solutions cannot be found then they are deal breakers to the overall acceptability of the site.

The school have indicated to us that they have a consultant looking at this and that we should get some information in due course

Full report of the March event is already on the website – (was added on 10th April)

- Please keep an eye on the website for the updated information

We'd like your help with the plan vision and objectives.....

The vision and objectives will provide the framework to develop the plan policies and proposals. They set the basis for the whole plan. They should be aspirational and visionary and broadly set out what sort of place we would like Abbots Bromley to be over the next 20-30 years.

At the back of the room are suggested drafts of what the plan should seek to achieve, please add your comments and let us know what you think

Thank you for listening

15. Verbal Report from Borough Cllr Greg Hall

Cllr Hall confirmed that the precept from ESBC has been frozen again this year.

Locally supported ABSA and said he was excited about the scheme and they are well on their way to Phase 2. The funding for the field behind the Village Hall was rolled over until the next year and funding was also provided for improvements to Millennium Green play area.

Cllr Hall said that the Neighbourhood Planning process is important to protect the area. Timing is perfect for the development of the plan.

16. Open Forum

Mrs A Blower asked if there was any progress on the field behind the Village Hall. Cllr Wakefield updated the meeting on the license agreement to use the field that was being worked on. It was confirmed that the field should be available for community use at the end of June.

Mr T Wheeldon if the Village Hall Committee is in a position to maintain the field and be responsible for it. Mr Wilson confirmed that it could come under the Village Hall responsibilities.

PCSO Hatfield introduced herself. She confirmed that she works out of Uttroter and is generally out and about in the area and available to support residents.

Mr J Hough asked if there was any truth in the rumour that the brewery had applied for planning permission for the car park behind The Crown. Cllr Hall and Cllr Moore confirmed that no application had been received.

Mr T Wheeldon said that the Neighbourhood Plan is about exploring opportunities.

With the Open Forum closed, Cllr Mrs Moore thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also thanked the Neighbourhood Planning team for providing displays and an update.

Signed _____ Date _____
Cllr P Charles