

# Annual Report



**April 2019**  
Version 2

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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8. Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2018

## 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 2019 ***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](http://www.abbotsbromley.com).

## Council Members and Officer – 2018/19

### ***Council Members***

- Adela Appleby 840169 – VICE CHAIRMAN
- 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

### ***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](mailto:parish.council@abbotsbromley.com)

## WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

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

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
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, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 7.00 pm At the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley**

**Introduction:** We have a number of written statements for the Parish Assembly. 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
Community Speed Watch	Mr P Male
Neighbourhood Development Plan	Mr M Hobbs
Abbots Bromley Sports Association	Mr C Woods
Richard Clarke First School	Mr John Hough
Staffordshire County Councillor's Report	Cllr Philip Atkins
East Staffordshire Borough Councillor's Report	Not available at time of going to print.
Parish Council Financial Statement	The Clerk
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2019 (to be added)	The Clerk
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2018	The Clerk

**Issue Details:** Version 2 – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

**Planning** – During the year we have been consulted on 65 planning applications (compared with 50 last year). These ranged from the usual tree works, house extensions to several agricultural barn conversions.

The Parish Council can only object to an application in line with planning legislation, but we are fortunate that two Cllrs are qualified planners and able to advise accordingly. Our Clerk identified that ESBC had not consistently reported our objections on their website but was able to ask that this was retrospectively addressed. Her actions seem to have prevented further errors.

Regrettably 2 of the refused planning permissions were successfully appealed - the new single detached dwelling behind Argyll House, High Street went to appeal for the second time and sadly the application has now been approved by the planning inspector. The remodelling of Clematis Cottage, Lichfield Road was re-submitted and permission has now been granted.

There seems to have been a rise in requests for removal of trees within the conservation area, some with TPOs and some not. In many cases the removal of these trees has been questionable and the Parish Council has made several successful objections.

**Abbots Bromley School** – At time of going to print with this report the announcement had just been made that the school could potentially close at the end of the summer term. Understandably this is of great concern to teachers, staff, parents, pupils and residents of Abbots Bromley.

The Parish Council has already met with the school governors in order to hear all the facts and ensure that we are kept up to speed.

We have also discussed the impact this may have on the Neighbourhood Development Plan with the group who are moving this forward and how we can support them. The Parish Council is considering three points that may give additional protection to the village from the implications of the closure. These are:

1: Listed buildings status – the listed buildings in Abbots Bromley can be found on the Historic England website. We will be happy to consider properties to be added to this list however it is probable this will not be possible as all appropriate properties are already listed. For example, a few years ago, Historic England advised the equestrian centre could not be listed. Parishioners should be reassured that buildings close to a listed building and in the Conservation Area already have some protection from development and the NDP can also add its own status to some buildings (as Mike may explain later)

2: Community Asset – We are grateful to Parish Councillor Ros Robb for her initial work on this matter. It seems that to be classed as a community asset, village residents rather than the school's students and staff must have primary use of the facility. There may be areas within the school estate that fall into this category and we will be happy to talk to ESBC to confirm the position

3: Article 4 – This clause may prohibit a developer changing the use of a property without first making a planning application. It adds an obstacle rather than stops development.

**Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan** – After last Parish Assembly a new group was formed to deliver the plan. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of both groups for their time and commitment in supporting the village with this important task. The chairman, Mike Hobbs will give a report on their progress later.

**Highways and Parking** – The Parish Council is still in discussions with Staffordshire County Council Highway's with a view to extending the zigzags at the zebra crossing to give a longer section of road without parked cars.

A meeting has also been held with Highways to try to improve safety in other areas of the village and it is hoped that more measures will be provided to help to reduce speed on Lichfield Road.

The Community Speed Watch Group has been reformed and we thank Peter Male and the Speed Watch volunteers for all their efforts on this great initiative. Peter has provided a detailed report on its activities as part of this document.

A big thank you is due to Metal Wizards of Rugeley for repairing the antique figure post on the junction of Ashbrook Lane and Lichfield Road and re-installing it, all free of charge; as the sign does not conform to modern highways standards the County Highways Department would have removed it and the village would have lost a link with the past.

Following concerns raised by some residents regarding the surface of the footpath between the Village Hall field and School House Lane the Parish Council has now received several quotations to provide a hard surface footpath along this route. The successful contractor has been informed and hopefully work on this can take place in the next few months. The footpath will need to be closed when work is carried out but the Parish Council will provide advance notice of this.

The Parish Council continues to regularly report issues such as blocked gullies and pot holes and has had some success using the on-line system. We would ask that residents also use East Staffordshire Borough Council's on-line system to report the issues as the greater the number of reports the more likely it is that work will be scheduled.

**HS2-** The Parish Council formed a working group with representatives from Newborough and Hoar Cross Parish Councils and local residents to review the impact that the power lines from Park Gate to the rail line at Colton would have. The group has agreed to Petition against these power lines and Cllr Roger Jarman will give an update. Thanks go to the residents that have helped with this and given so much of their time.

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

**Mobile Post Office** – The service has continued through the year although it has been reported several times that the van has not appeared at the times advertised and now is only attending on a Thursday afternoon. It seems that it is a case of 'use it or lose it'.

**Bromley Bulletin** – This year we published in June, November and March and this was hand delivered throughout the year by Councillors.

**Christmas Tree** – This year the Council obtained more sets of mains powered lights which it was generally agreed gave a better display. Our thanks to Rob Peters for providing power to Christmas tree and to James Stephenson for assisting Parish Councillors Phil Charles, John Houlihan and Phil Ryan with getting the lights onto the tree. The Council plans to add additional lights this Christmas.

**Best Kept Village Competition** – After the sterling efforts by Parish Councillor Appleby, Abbots Bromley came first in the East Staffordshire area Large Village category and won the trophy for the Best Overall Village in the area for the second year in succession.

This is a village achievement and we should be very proud of how we have worked together from individuals helping with the spring clean and the wide variety of who adopted an area. Entries to our village competitions for the Best kept Front Door Step and Best kept Front Garden grew in numbers.

Judges were particularly impressed with how younger members of our community got involved especially with the fantastic displays of the posters (two of ours went on to be placed in the County competition) throughout the village and the herb garden provided and maintained by the Rainbows.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone that helped us to win the trophy again including the companies that donated prize money for our competitions.

The foundations for BKV 2019 and doing 'the hatrick' are now in place - New community initiatives include the Guides and Brownies putting bird boxes and bug hotels in public areas to encourage wildlife and the Rainbows creating pots of bee friendly flowers.

### **Village Gateways**

Village gateways create an attractive display for signage on the entry to a village and help with traffic calming as they alert motorists to a speed change so they can slow down.

A grant of £1500 was received from County Councillor Atkin's fund that has been matched by the Parish Council in order to purchase gateways for the Uttoxeter Road and Ashbrook Lane entrances to Abbots Bromley that should be installed in the early summer.

The Parish Council intends to purchase gateways for Lichfield Road when the work has been completed on the entrance to the Sports Field.

### **Outdoor Gym**

During this year the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining grants of £10,000 towards Outdoor Gym equipment which will be a great asset to the village. We would like to thank village resident Rachel Walters for alerting the Parish Council to this opportunity.

Parish Councillor Appleby has worked hard to source this donation from The National Lottery and carried out a survey of the village to ascertain the preferred locations for the site. Two shortlisted sites are being considered and it is hoped the gym will be available for the summer however a lot of work is needed by councillors for it to progress as planned.

**Notice Boards** The village notice boards are in disrepair, however costly to replace. For this reason, the Parish Council has plans to replace them over the next few years and to install one near to Top Shop (as there is not a notice board at that side of the village). The Parish Council committed £1,500 to replace one of the notice boards and that we agreed to do one a year until all were replaced. This project is still to be progressed.

**Playgrounds** – Over the past two years the Parish Council has undertaken some refurbishment work to both The Nuttery under 5s playground and also Millennium Green. Work has included repair to the Wetpour at the Nuttery, a new rocking cow for small children and new swing seats and chains.

At the Millennium Green there has been replacement of the wood chip and the wooden retaining posts have been replaced by recycled plastic posts which have a much longer life and will require little maintenance in the future. There is, however, more work required on The Nuttery over the next year or two including potentially the replacement of all of the wet pour as it is coming to the end of its life. The PC is also looking for volunteers who would be willing to join a painting party and give the playground a fresh lick of paint in time for the summer months. Following a request from a resident the PC also plans to put two latches on the gates to the playground so that young children can't open the gates easily. Hopefully these will be in place shortly.

**War Memorial** – The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has made a donation towards the repairs to the surface surrounding the War Memorial. In total the village has donated £2193. The Parish Council has set aside a further £2000 (which is in addition to the funding given last year for the wooden posts). It is hoped the work will be undertaken this summer. We are grateful to Tom Wheeldon for his continued support with this project.

**Finance** – As this report has been written before the end of the financial year, I cannot give details of any small donations given to village groups. Applications have been received and will be considered and decided by Parish Councillors at the April Parish Council meeting. As reported under the appropriate section of this report total grants of £11,500 were received for the Gateways and Outdoor Gym.

**Jubilee Cup 2017/18** – Last year's worthy recipient was Richard Hall for providing the concessionary path in the field alongside the B5013 from the village to Port Lane and so making possible a safe route for walkers to access the reservoir.

**Thanks to Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk**

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Parish Council for the time they have volunteered in their role and for all they have achieved in the last year. We rely on expertise of a wonderful Clerk and I take this opportunity on behalf of all Parish Councillors to thank Sarah Meads for her hard work and support. Much of what we achieve could not be done without you.

**Cllr Phil Charles  
Parish Council  
Chairman**

<b>PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES</b>
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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 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 will be tabled at the Parish Assembly. The internal audit and unaudited accounts are available to view on line at [parish.council@abbotsbromley.com](mailto:parish.council@abbotsbromley.com)

**Sarah Meads  
Parish Clerk**

<b>ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL</b>
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The village hall has continued to operate at a consistent level. Our finances for the year show a slight decline due to the cost of heating repairs. As the building is now heading for 20 years old repairs to the heating/plumbing seem to be a constant frustration and the committee are looking to replace the system in the near future. Grounds maintenance is also costing more as paved areas require work and the trees will require some pruning.

We have continued to support the Live and Local organisation by holding 2 events a year but a bigger attendance would be appreciated. In November as part of the Great War remembrance we held a tea dance which proved popular with many residents, we would also like to purchase a memorial bench as the hall itself was created as a venue for ex-servicemen after the First World War.

Weekly bookings for the hall are popular with many exercise classes and the very popular Saturday dance classes. However weekend evening functions have declined causing a drop in revenue. The committee works to keep the hall functioning well but any offers of help are always welcome.

**Simon Wilson, Chairman  
Abbots Bromley Village Hall Committee**

## Abbots Bromley Community First Responders

### **Current Status**

I am pleased to report that there have been major changes within the AB First Responders team. In January 2019 a full new committee stepped in and took control for the running, administration and future of the team. Details of the new committee members are attached.

The village now has two active responders. We have another returning responder who we are hoping will soon be given the go-ahead from the West Midlands Ambulance Service to return to front-line responding. We also have two ladies from Uttoxeter who are at the end of their training and awaiting clearance to be activated.

### **New Recruits**

We have had several new individuals from within the village making enquiries about joining the CFR team. A meeting with the new Chair of Abbots Bromley's responders Mr Tony Rawlinson and the Head of West Midlands Ambulance Service's community responders Mr Matthew Hewitt has been arranged to request places on this year's training course. The Committee are aware of the lack of hours that are currently being covered and see increasing this as one of the focuses for the year.

### **Plan for 2019**

#### **Visibility**

Due to the lack of hours currently being covered by the existing team the Committee are focusing on ways to improve CFR visibility in the area in order to generate more interest in becoming a CFR. The success of recruiting volunteers also relies on the training opportunities provided by the West Midlands Ambulance Service, which will be addressed at the meeting mentioned above. The Committee are planning a big fundraising event in July and smaller events throughout the year to raise the profile of the team.

#### **Defibrillators**

Being a rural village the CFRs are a critical service but we are a small team. We believe it is essential to have Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) at various sites around the village to enable people to help themselves until qualified help arrives.

After many fundraising events the team have been able to purchase 3 PADs with the intention to purchase an additional 3 more once funds have been raised. We plan to roll out the PADs in the following phases:

Phase One: Deployment of two PADs either end of the village, Top Shop confirmed, the other end to be confirmed – hopefully the bus shelter. Staffordshire Borough Council have confirmed that no planning consent will be required but we are awaiting the West Midlands Bus Service to confirm they are happy for us to attach a PAD to the bus shelter.

Phase Two: Release several dates for training events. CFRs to run British Heart Foundation Heart Start courses and Start a Heart courses, which will show people how to use the equipment.

Phase Three: Deploy two more PADs . One to be located at the Village Hall and one at the junction of either Schoolhouse Lane or Swan Lane or possibly at the Abbots Bromley Surgery.

Phase Four: Deployment of two more PADs. One for the new Sports Ground and one attached to the Fire Station. (The Fire station is in the process of having a PAD located on the outside of the station).

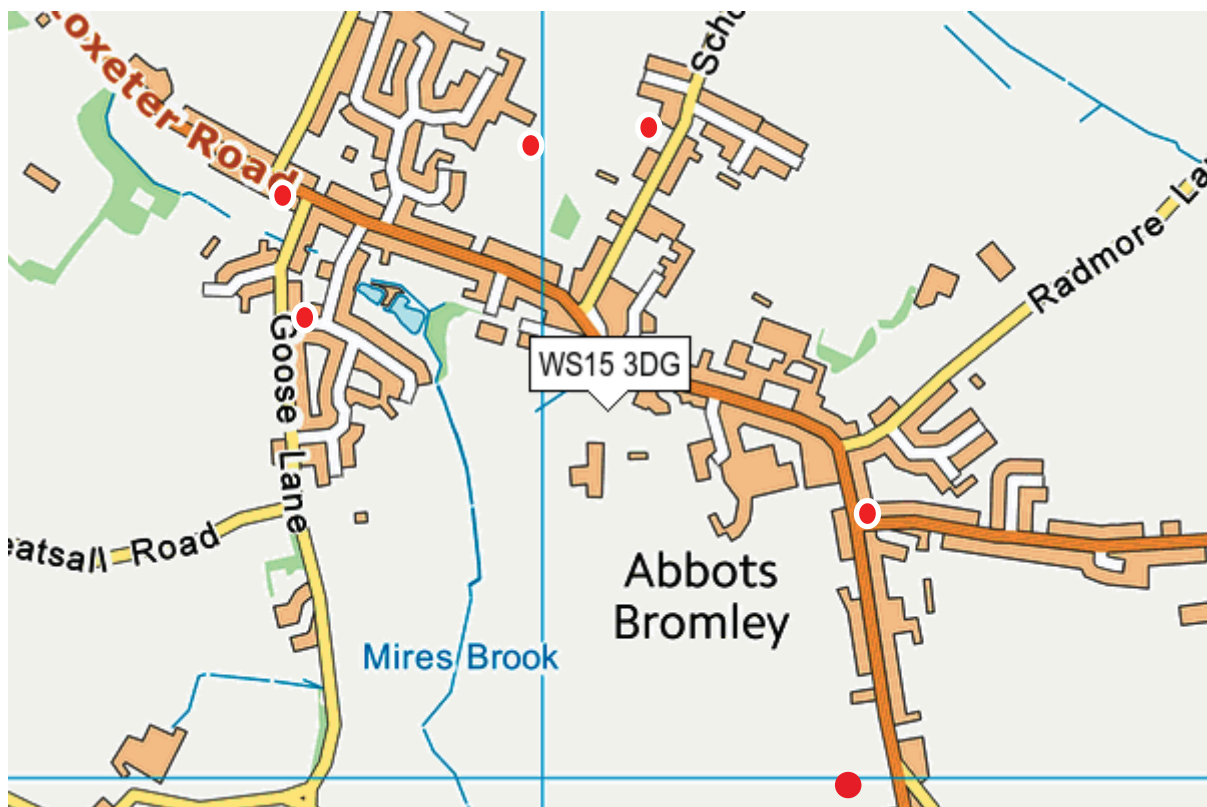
Funds are still required to achieve our goal, but the team has and is working hard towards this.



## Vehicle

We are still looking for a major increase in funding to allow the team to prepare for its future. The equipment on board the vehicle requires updating along with a new vehicle to replace the ambulance. This is still our major concern.

The future is looking good for the team with a strong motivated Committee that has plans for the development of the team. The team will be continuing to work hard to provide the village with the equipment and to train the residents with the new PADs.



Location of Public Access Defibrillator (PAD's)

Abbots Bromley Community First Responder Committee

Chair Person, Mr Tony Rawlinson

Co Ordinator, Mr Robert Stevenson

Secretary, Mrs Sarah Simpson

Treasurer, Mrs Claire Collier

Charity Fund Raiser, Mr Tony Steward

**E-Mail: [Stevenson20@btinternet.com](mailto:Stevenson20@btinternet.com)**  
**Home: 01283 840437**  
**Mobile: 07800849237**

## Community Speed Watch

The Speed Watch Group was formed in August 2018 and undertook their first monitoring session on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Observations are undertaken by a group of 2 or 3 observers in the 30mph zone of the village. There are 6 monitoring sites approved – Lichfield Road through to Uttoxeter Road. It has to be stressed that the police consider Community Speed Watch as part of a driver education programme. There are no prosecutions as a direct result of the group's activity. When a driver is reported for a first occasion, a letter is sent to remind them of their duty to observe the speed limits. A second reporting for the same vehicle results in a 'stronger' letter and third report results in a personal visit from a PC or PCSO. 4 subsequent reports result in further personal visits and an entry on the national PNC database so that any PC/PCSO needing to access the vehicle details for another motoring offence has a bit more history.

For any vehicle exceeding 60mph in a 30mph area the driver automatically gets a personal visit – even on the first report. On Lichfield Road there have been 15 vehicles in this category. Between the group becoming active and the end of March there have been a total of 51 sessions each lasting 1 hour. A further 11 planned sessions had to be cancelled due to rain.

Total number of vehicles observed	9810
Total number of vehicles reported	1331
Number of vehicles reported twice	108
The following are in addition to the above	
Number of vehicles reported 3 times	12
Number of vehicles reported 4 times	5
Number of vehicles reported 5 times	0
Number of vehicles reported 6 times	1

It can be reported that the driver reported 6 times has now responded to the advice given. Initial observations on Lichfield Road showed 45% of the vehicles exceed the reporting limit. Current observations show that, on average, 20% of the vehicles exceed the limit when the group is in operation. When not monitoring the speeds are considerably higher.

On Bagot Street / Uttoxeter Road the number of vehicles exceeding the limit has been a constant average of 5%.

The above figures do not give the full scale of the problem and the CSW Group together with the Parish Council are submitting a grant application to purchase a Speed Indicating Device (SID) that can be used at various sites in the village. It will record speed plus time on a 24/7 basis and therefore provide valuable information to support the case for the provision of physical measures which the group and many others consider to be the only solution to the speeding issue. We look forward to the day when drivers will observe the limit and our observations are not required.

The group are always looking for more volunteers to spread the load and increase the number of sites that could be monitored. This especially applies to anyone living or having an interest in the excessive speeds on Ashbrook Lane. Your commitment will initially require a 2 hour training session conducted by the police. Once on the books, you volunteer to do a session whenever it suits your availability. Just needs two people and must be in daylight hours. Please contact Sarah Meads to get an application form or seek answers to any other questions.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) provides the opportunity for a community to have a say in its own future. It is primarily about the use and development of land, but can also look at other issues impacting the parish such as heritage, tourism, employment, transport etc. The parish of Abbots Bromley now needs to get to the stage where there is a NDP created by the parish, for the parish, on which everyone can vote (by the holding of a referendum). Residents are ultimately in control of informing the planning decision makers on how we wish the parish and the village to be shaped.

Abbots Bromley Parish Council restarted its engagement work on a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish following the 2018 Parish Assembly. An Independent review of all the work previously undertaken was commissioned, and a new Neighbourhood Development Plan Group (NDPG) has been established.

Many of our neighbouring parishes have been to referendum and now have established NDPs in place. Whilst there is no specific cut-off date, the sooner the parish has its agreed plan, the sooner we are able to assure the future for the parish.

In late September 2018 a new NDPG was ratified and is made up from volunteers who have been tasked to get the process started again (and more importantly to ensure everyone in the community is fully informed of the process to be followed; whilst allowing all of the community the opportunity to be involved in the creation of a Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan).

Since ratification the new NDPG has been working hard to familiarise itself with the processes required for the delivery of a successful NDP. Engagement with ESBC Planning Department for advice, support and recommendations on our next steps has been undertaken guiding on the following:

- ◆ Vision and Objectives - We need to ensure everyone in the parish has the opportunity to partake in creating a clear vision and set of objectives for the Abbots Bromley NDP.
- ◆ Housing Needs analysis - the previous housing needs analysis produced requires updating. There is a need for us to benchmark the parish's housing needs against both East Staffordshire and the West Midlands.
- ◆ Site Assessment – If it is determined that this action is appropriate/necessary, full consultation with the parish will be conducted, as well as technical support guidance to ensure that a transparent/robust process is followed.
- ◆ Additional consultation - we need to ensure anyone who has an interest in the parish has been consulted with during the process.
- ◆ Technical advice and support – The NDPG will be applying for funding from a central government agency for project management and delivery support - which other neighbourhoods have used to good effect.

The following updated information is provided from the 2019 Spring Bromley Bulletin:

### **Progress Update**

Since November 2018 we have held four public sessions providing a 'first stage' opportunity for everyone in the community to be involved in the creation of our NDP- making progress together. The initial public sessions were run as general update and discussion events; with a small number of parishioners in attendance on each occasion. Following resident's advice, the monthly sessions now seek to focus on more specific '**HAVE YOUR SAY**' topics that will help inform discussion with the wider community once an Independent Consultant has been appointed. The first two sessions for 2019 have already been conducted using this format as follows:

## **7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 - TRAFFIC AND PARKING; 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Heritage & Conservation**

A reasonable number of residents attended both sessions, with many who were unable to attend providing their written comments to the group. The discussions and range of comments were extremely informative, generating a lot of valuable ideas. Identified outcomes from both sessions included:

- Concern that additional development would significantly add to traffic congestion, impacting on the lack of suitable parking.
- Speeding of traffic through the built up areas.
- The need to maintain the present street scene in order to preserve the historic nature of the village.
- Preservation of the parish lanes / green open spaces / hedgerows.

We will also ensure that feedback from earlier such discussions conducted by the initial NDP Group are fed into the latest NDP process.

### **UPCOMING ‘HAVE YOUR SAY’ EVENTS AND POTENTIAL TOPICS**

We need the community to provide their feedback on a range of topics, so please consider coming to a meeting. Meetings are conducted on Thursday’s at 7pm in Church House. Everyone is welcome. If you are unable to attend these sessions and would like to provide your views/opinions on the topics, please get in touch with the NDPG. See methods for contacting the group at the end of this notice. Your views are essential for helping shape the Draft version of the parish NDP.

4 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Young People’s Forum
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	Housing Needs Analysis
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	Plan Update Session – ‘Where We Are Now’

**The dates and venue are also advertised on the website, social media and notice-boards nearer the time**

### **The NDP Needs You! This is Your Chance!**

We require volunteers to help with the consultation process, and to help keep the community up to date. If you have some time to spare we would be pleased to receive your assistance. You may wish to become a member of the NDPG; provide local knowledge; help with your expertise or support us with social media communications?

We want to make sure everyone is involved, particularly younger residents, local groups and organisations.

Please get in touch if you want to contribute your personal views, or those from groups with an interest in a particular area.

### **Keep in Touch**

The NDP website [http://www.abbotsbromley.com/neighbourhood\\_plan](http://www.abbotsbromley.com/neighbourhood_plan)

Follow us on Twitter [@AbbotsPlan](#)

Follow us on Facebook search for ‘[Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan](#)’

Email us at: [parish.council@abbotsbromley.com](mailto:parish.council@abbotsbromley.com)

A dedicated notice board is located by the Buttercross.

### **New Milestones**

In the last Bulletin update we informed that the Parish Council had commissioned a report from an Independent Consultant to review the work carried out to May 2018 in production of a NDP. Following the

report the PC decided to engage the services of an Independent Consultant to support the work of the new NDPG.

A funding application is being made to a Government Agency 'Locality' by the PC and the NDPG. We hope we will be successful with the funding application, and that a fully funded Independent Consultant will be available to support the NDP process in April 2019.

In the meantime the NDPG have produced an aspirational timeline of events to help plan and monitor progress for delivery of the Abbots Bromley Parish NDP as follows:

**TIMELINE OF ACTIONS FOR PRODUCTION OF ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH  
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

ACTION	Tick when complete	NEW MILESTONES 2018/2019
FORMATION OF NEW NDP GROUP AND PARISH COUNCIL AGREEMENT OF GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE.	✓	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018
INAUGURAL MEETING OF RATIFIED NDP GROUP	✓	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018
NEW EVIDENCE GATHERING, (AND REVIEW OF EXISTING EVIDENCE FROM 2015-2018)		Sept 2018 – (ongoing)
ANALYSIS OF DATA		Sept 2018 – (on-going)
COMPLETION OF EVIDENCE GATHERING		TBC Pending Consultant's recommendations
PUBLIC SESSIONS HELD		Nov 2018 - (on-going)
GATHER 'LOCALITY' FUNDING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	✓	Nov 2018 - Jan 2019
PREPARE 'LOCALITY' FUNDING APPLICATION WITH QUOTATIONS FROM CONSULTANTS TO SUPPORT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		Jan 2019 (ongoing)
SUBMIT FIRST DRAFT 'LOCALITY' FUNDING APPLICATION WITH CONSULTANT DAILY RATE QUOTATIONS TO PARISH COUNCIL.	✓	18/02/19
PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW FIRST DRAFT 'LOCALITY' FUNDING APPLICATION AND FEEDBACK TO NDP GROUP.	✓	27/02/19
OBTAIN 'FULL' QUOTATIONS FROM VARIOUS CONSULTANTS TO DELIVER AN IDENTIFIED SCOPE OF WORK AND SUBMIT THIS TO PC IN ORDER THAT THEY NOMINATE PREFERRED CONSULTANT	✓	March 2019
'LOCALITY' FUNDING APPLICATION AND PREFERRED CONSULTANT QUOTATION SUBMITTED BY PC TO 'LOCALITY'		By 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019
NOMINATED CONSULTANT INSTRUCTED TO COMMENCE WORK IN SUPPORT OF NDPG ACTIVITIES TO BRING FORWARD A NDP		April 2019

LOCALITY FUNDING APPROVED AND RECEIVED		April 2019
PREPARATION OF FIRST DRAFT OF NDP		April – June 2019 Assuming funding has been received
STATUTORY CONSULTATION: 6 WEEKS		Aspirational date to commence consultation at end of July 2019
REVIEW/AMEND DRAFT NDP		TBC
AGREEMENT OF FINAL DRAFT NDP BY ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL		TBC
PARISH COUNCIL SUBMIT PLAN TO EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL		TBC
ESBC CHECKS AND INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION CARRIED OUT		TBC
REFERENDUM ORGANISED BY ESBC		TBC
ESBC 'MAKES' THE NDP AS PART OF IT'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN		TBC

The document containing the original milestones 2015 – 2018 can be found at:  
[www.abbotsbromley.com/neighbourhood\\_plan](http://www.abbotsbromley.com/neighbourhood_plan)

For full details of Neighbourhood Development Plans please visit: [www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning)

or

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance>

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - March 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

Progress is being made with the Football Foundation Facilities Fund and the Premier League in respect of the grant.

Trustees unanimously agreed to accept the offer at our February Board meeting, after reviewing the pre-conditions and overall terms of reference, and our future financial projections for the provision of match funding.

Our solicitors are working with the FF\PL to provide the charge on the ground, at a full cost to ABSA, and we expect this principle pre-condition to be met within a few weeks. Once completed we will seek further permissions to proceed with the development of Phase II.

John has met with the contractors and Total Turf Solutions, who will be ready to commence the work at the beginning of May.

The development will include provision of a tarmac access to the Lichfield Road, with security gates fitted at a later date. Car parking for 59 vehicles, ground levelling to the total site yet undeveloped and beyond the existing grass bund at the top of the cricket outfield. Drainage and trenches for water, which is already connected and mains electric cabling to the temporary buildings and the community hub.

Movement of the temporary buildings to a new position and the refitting of said buildings to facilitate short term changing and showers.

Laying of two grass pitches for senior and junior football. Total costs, including additional professional fees and 9% contingency is £310,409.

There are some additional considerations such as tree planting and ecological requirements which are already in hand. However we will need to have an ecologist to check such matters as bird nesting in the hedge which requires to be removed for access to take place. Similarly we will seek to replace and improve the pathways and stiles adjoining and surrounding the site. Overall, Trustees, having reviewed all risks and assured themselves of reasonable mitigations, consider that this Phase of work can be started and hopefully completed before the end of the summer 2019, and utilised for sport in 2020 season.

I should add that this Phase will exhaust all of our current financial resources, despite already having paid for full design and foundation plans for the community hub.

We have started to embark on Phase III, (Community Hub build, tennis and netball and all weather courts) in terms of contracting with a specialist, seeking funding bodies and discussing with existing clubs, but it is clear we currently cannot expense any of this Phase until we have completed the current work plans.

Finally, Trustees discussed the recent announcement of the closure of ABS. We have been assured verbally by the Chair of Governors that as our lease is with the Woodard Corporation and the ground will not be subject to sale, and in any event, the lease is binding to a future owner, we are content to continue with our plans.

Clearly we will be monitoring the situation closely along with others in the community, and at some future stage will look for a more formal assurance over time. The minutes of our meetings, alongside other relevant documents are available on our website.

Chris Wood Chair ABSA

If you want to get involved contact Chris Wood on [chris\\_wood53@live.co.uk](mailto:chris_wood53@live.co.uk) or 07770488975

## Abbots Bromley Village Assembly April 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

### The Richard Clarke First School Report from the Chair of Governors

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

**Financial:** We are about to set our budget for 2019/2020 and expect it to be more demanding than usual. In common with most schools in the area, the projected intake on which our 2020 funding is based is lower than expected. However, the following year has a very high forecast intake. The challenge, therefore, is to manage our way through the budgetary restrictions of next year without making any traumatic changes. As I have written many times, a major proportion (~75%) of our expenditure is in staff costs. One does not have to be a financial wizard to see the implications of this, but we will strive to stick with our a long-standing commitment to maintain the existing staffing structure, which delights parents and continues to deliver an excellent quality of education and exemplary pupil care and well-being.

There are also well-publicised reasons why school funding is an issue causing concern for most educational professionals and school governors.

- School class sizes are rising nationally but DfE funding has not kept pace.
- Schools are expected to offer increasing support for children's emotional health and well-being without any additional resources being made available.
- Schools are routinely expected to fill the gap when Public Sector funding for vulnerable children is being steadily reduced.

There is not a great deal that we can do about this except complain and manage our budgets even more prudently than normal.

On a much more positive note, our PTFA continues to raise money for RCFS projects and, of course, they could not be as effective as they are without the support of our parents. We have also been successful in bids for external funding which have given us a brand new outdoor play area for Early Years. The LA also paid for the major repair of our driveway, addressing our H&S concerns. The Parish Council has made a donation which was used to create 'play zones' on the courtyard. Finally, as in every Annual Report, I offer thanks to our eponymous benefactor whose Endowment Fund is a source of considerable joy.

**Number of Pupils:** We have a very healthy roll for 2018/19 but the forecast for 2019/20, which was very encouraging, has suddenly fallen. This appears to be common to many schools in the area but is still concerning. No reasons have been given but it may be the LA overestimated the number of new house builds leading to a higher demand for school places. Such cycles are not unknown but they are unsettling.

**Staffing:** We have maintained our staffing structure with a full-time teacher in every class, well-supported by teaching assistants and, in many cases, parent helpers. The need to offer one-to-one help for children with special needs requires highly-skilled and dedicated staff, and this is why our excellent TAs are so appreciated by parents. We have had a couple of staff changes since Christmas. Our Early Years teacher, who so impressed the OfSTED inspector, has moved on to a more focussed role in a Special School and has been replaced by an excellent, young teacher with experience in Forest Schools. She hopes to take advantage of the resources and location of RCFS to develop our outdoor teaching. The other departure from the school is our long-serving Office Manager. She joined RCFS 15 years ago as a parent helper and evolved into a multi-role (finance, admin, H&W, front-of-house etc) mainstay of the RCFS team. She is returning to her professional roots in HR. Her replacement will start after Easter but the financial control element will be covered by our Associate Membership of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust. (see below, under ULT)



**School Performance:** We had our previous OfSTED inspection in 2017 and are not expecting another one in the near future, unless our standards slip, of course. We were informed by the LA in October 2018 that we had been evaluated as Category 1 (No concern). This is encouraging but doesn't quite create the same adrenaline rush as an OfSTED inspection. We also participate, with other schools in the Uttoxeter Pyramid, in a review process involving groups of three schools, known as the Triad. This is a very useful process which is always professional and sometimes uncomfortable. Our key priorities for 2018 are:-

- To focus on standards of writing across the school.
- To ensure that we have a broad and balanced curriculum, incorporating PSHE /SRE
- To implement changes to the EYFS framework and to enhance transition from Nursery to EY and EY to Year 1.
- To further develop children's independence and resilience in an ever-changing world.

We also have on-going priorities, all of which have to be addressed – Teaching and Learning in Maths, Standards of Phonics and Spelling, Health and Well-being of pupils and staff, Data Protection following GDPR legislation.

**Uttoxeter Learning Trust (ULT):** The ULT has continued to prosper and has now developed a set of policies and offerings for its members in and around Uttoxeter. RCFS has not yet joined as a full member but it has been offered, and accepted, the chance to sample life in the ULT as an associate member. We have a year to evaluate what is to be gained from full membership and then make a decision. I assure you that there will be no referendum. We believe that RCFS can make a major contribution to the effectiveness of the ULT and this, of course, is why we have been offered the associate membership. As mentioned in the Staffing section, we already make use of the ULT's finance professionals and have also signed up to a number of Service Level Agreements with the ULT which have already saved money. There will also be opportunities for continuing professional development of staff (CPD), governance reviews and performance monitoring. If we really are committed to maintaining RCFS's high standards we would be foolish not to take full advantage.

**Summary:** RCFS continues to maintain its excellent reputation for leadership, classroom skills, financial management and governance. It particularly tries to give children the best possible learning experience to enhance their life skills, as well as their command of the curriculum. It is a matter of some regret that we have to relinquish responsibility for our children too early in the educational process. Possibly being part of the ULT will ease our concerns. Funding challenges will no doubt continue but we are in a far better position than many schools to deal with the challenge; but it will be difficult. I wish to offer my thanks to the RCFS leadership and the classroom staff; 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 make it all worthwhile.

The latest news about The Richard Clarke First School can be found on our web-site ([www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](http://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**

**Uttoxeter Rural Division Annual Report April 2019**

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.  
The Conservatives retain overall control of Staffordshire County Council with 51 seats: Conservative 51, Labour 10 and Other 1.

Preparing for the next financial year 2019/20 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 as we have had to identify savings of £35 Million which is best explained by the Plan on a Page:

## Plan on a Page

**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

## 6 Strands of the MTFS



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

For the next financial year, we will see the County Council delivering record spending on care of the most vulnerable in our communities and still balancing the books over the next five years. This is a huge achievement at a time when financial pressures remain immensely challenging. The county council spent £200 million a year ten years ago on adult and children social care, we will be spending £316 million next year. This is because we are all living longer, that is the good news, while more children are entering the care system and the reasons for the scale of the pressure.

However, Staffordshire remains the third lowest county council tax in England, £89.03 less than the average for a Band D. Also, after receiving an additional £8.99 million for highway repair from the Government we will again be spending an extra £5 million once again to tackle potholes in 2019/20.

We have also been successful in a Business Rates pilot with 75% of business rates coming back to Staffordshire, instead of 50%.

In addition, there is £6.88 million for Better Care Fund for the coming years.

The winter pressures on hospitals are being successfully managed this year, with the numbers of delayed transfers out of care reducing.

We also see record levels of employment with unemployment at 1.5%

By taking decisive, early action we have managed not only to balance our books but put forward robust financial plans for the next five years. Despite this huge progress I remain acutely aware of the risks and challenges which lie ahead.

In 2019, together with partners we will continue to press the Government for a long-term solution on the funding of care. This is a national issue which needs a national discussion and a national approach on how we, as a country, can continue to fund the care of increasing numbers of vulnerable adults and children.

In Staffordshire, both the funding and delivery of our health and care economy remains complex and both ourselves and our NHS colleagues recognise this. As a county council, we remain committed to helping people stay independent for as long as possible and supporting more people in their homes and their communities when they do need a helping hand. The statistics on the

Delayed Transfers of Care from hospitals for people waiting for social care have fallen steadily every month from July 2018. We are not quite there, but we are moving in the right direction and are a world away from two years ago.

This is a testament to partnerships, resilience and to the straight talking that needs to be done to make a difference and this stands us in good stead to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities which lie ahead.

This means focusing on our key priorities including; growing a strong economy for Staffordshire, helping people lead healthier and independent lives, investing in key roads and schools, taking a stronger role in housing, promoting community solutions and focusing on digital and innovation.

To demonstrate the latter there was some good news when it was announced that a county council-led partnership had won a bid to be part of a Government funded innovation project.

The £1.9m 'live lab' project at Keele University will develop, test and demonstrate how a smart highways network can be designed, maintained and extended to local roads.

So undoubtedly a busy year ahead with further good news of the benefits of partnership working after Staffordshire County Council secured £3.8 million for a Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund.

The fund will lift 1,000 households out of fuel poverty by installing mains gas connections, central heating systems and insulation work.

## **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.

New figures show that the number of people in work is at a record high and wages have risen at their fastest pace in a decade. With wages continuing to increase faster than prices in Staffordshire, more people have the security of a regular wage and can provide for their families.

People are being helped into work by reforming welfare so work always pays, while backing businesses to create more, better paying jobs across the whole country through our careful economic management and a modern Industrial Strategy.

### **Our economy plans for 2019 and beyond build on past successes**

Business development sites currently under construction in Staffordshire with county council involvement will generate over £10million a year in business rates. And figures show the county is also developing a skilled local workforce to meet the growing demands of business.

Sites such as Liberty Park in Lichfield, Four Ashes in South Staffordshire, Meaford near Stone and the MacArthurGlen Designer Retail Outlet in Cannock will bring in around £10.3million in business rates when completed which will help to fund public services.

Whilst business development continues at pace across the county, the county council's long term economic growth programme also focuses on ensuring people have the right skills to take advantage of increased employment opportunities.

Working with the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the county council's skills development programme has led to over 18,200 people improving their employability prospects or improving their in-work skills – directly benefiting local businesses.

Nearly £60million has been invested in this programme so far.

In addition, the LEP's Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Hub, located at six sites, provides state of the art facilities and equipment giving people the skills they need to work in the county's key industry sectors.

The £13.2 million hub has already supported over 7,300 learners since the project was launched in 2014.

More major business developments set to get under way in Staffordshire will also deliver more jobs as near full employment continues in the county.

Creating the conditions for business and investors to create more and better jobs, and making sure people have the skills to access those opportunities is the bedrock to raising people's living standards. It means they have more money in their pocket and lead healthier lives.

The economic growth programme is largely self-funding. For every £1 of county council money invested, £13.60 of external funding is secured. Much of our £1 will be repaid through business rates now and in the future

**All county councillors are to be allocated £20,000 each to prioritise highways work in their own local communities.**

There is an additional £5 million this year on top of the annual £7.5 Million spend on highway maintenance. The one-off £20 K is on top of annual £7K funding for highways each member must allocate to local roads. I have allocated it to the rural areas as many other projects such as routine repairs, traffic calming in Bramshall, speed and road improvements in Ellastone, or traffic calming at Rocester are being funded by s106 or normal contributions.

**Early Peak-Time Free Travel To Remain for Disabled People**

Free peak time bus travel for disabled people in Staffordshire is set to continue – following feedback from a public consultation on concessionary travel.

Staffordshire County Council is planning to follow national guidelines for concessionary travel, which means older people with bus passes in the county will still be able to travel for free between 9.30am and 11pm and at any time during the weekend or on bank holidays. However, people who choose to travel before 9.30am will need to pay the bus operator's fare.

After listening to feedback, the council has amended the proposals and disabled people will now be able to continue to use their passes for free travel before 9.30am.

**A50 Growth Corridor update**

Despite the recent poor weather, work completed early this year. Surfacing of the new slip roads and three roundabouts is complete. The work, which started in 2016, has seen an upgraded junction with the A522, a new bridge installed, the old one demolished and the building of three new roundabouts and slip roads.

This major piece of engineering is a huge success and will deliver many economic benefits, while also improving road safety.

Project B is in the Road investment strategy Programme for delivery by 2025.

**IRONMAN® 70.3 Staffordshire Stafford Town Centre on Sunday 9 June**

Established in 2015, the event has quickly grown 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.

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

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 years apart from some improvements. The swim will remain at Chasewater Country Park..

If there are any issues or questions please contact [staffordshire70.3@ironmanroadaccess.com](mailto:staffordshire70.3@ironmanroadaccess.com) or call 033 3011 6600.

## **Getting the Best Deal for Staffordshire from HS2**

The 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 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 2017, 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 formed the basis of our petition to the House of Commons and appeared before the Select Committee.

We have also been meeting regularly with HS2 Ltd to discuss pressing issues, in particular on construction routes.

HS2 have now brought forward a proposed new Parkgate electricity connection. The original design for the Phase 2a scheme included a connection at the decommissioned Rugeley Power Station, whereas the new proposals run from Newlands Lane in Colton and ends in Newborough.

The HS2 newsletter on Parkgate mentioned that there were objections to the original proposals and states “As well as providing a more resilient energy supply, the alternative proposal means that the Rugeley Power Station site would no longer need to be used by HS2. There are separate redevelopment plans for the Rugeley Power Station site, which are supported by the local authorities.”

This could be taken to mean that the objections mentioned came from the local authorities, but this is not the case.

The County Council and Lichfield District Council petitioned jointly on Rugeley to seek greater clarification on timescales and land take, so as not to stymie the planned development on the site. No request was made to consider an alternative.

The objections and request for an alternative site came from National Grid, the detail of which can be read in their petition. The solution is to bury the cable, but we must all make the case.

The Hybrid Bill for Phase 2a is going through Parliament and should be passed if Parliamentary time permits at the end of this year.

## **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/](http://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 97% of premises receiving speeds in excess of 24 Mbps.

## **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](http://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.

Experimental traffic orders have reduced HGV traffic movement along sections of the road after coming into force in late February.

Communities living along the A515 have expressed concerns about increased use of the road by HGVs, rather than using the A38 and A50 trunk roads.

The Staffordshire Freight Forum was formulated following a recommendation of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Report. An outcome from the 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.

The issues mainly affect the villages of Draycott in the Clay, Yoxall and Kings Bromley and the experimental order scheme will be community-driven. Local parish councils and residents took these concerns to the Staffordshire Freight and Communities Forum – which is made of a range of organisations aiming to address issues related to HGV impact on communities. The forum investigated how their concerns could be addressed in a practical and achievable way.

Phase one of the experimental orders scheme will see left and right turn bans for HGVs will be introduced at three junctions on the A515 on roads which lead to the A38.

These are the junctions with the B5016 in Yoxall, the A513 in Kings Bromley and the C0183 Wood End Lane north of Lichfield. Signs have been installed to inform drivers of the new orders and businesses from across the area have been informed. Regular traffic flow reviews will be carried out to assess the impact of the orders.

These will be experimental orders lasting for a temporary period of 18 months.

Phase two will see local roads reclassified. The county council is making the case for Wood End Lane to be improved through the HS2 construction programme, after which it can be reclassified as an A or B road. The A513 and B5016 can then be reclassified to lower status roads so that weight restrictions could be applied.

On the A515 speed limit buffer zones and gateways are being introduced in Yoxall and Draycott-in-the-Clay.

It is important to everyone that we are able put forward measures that could be delivered promptly and with a relative ease. Experimental traffic orders do just that and mean that we can monitor their effectiveness during the temporary period. We can then make decisions on longer term measures or possible alternatives. If successful we can then look to reclassify some local roads to make the measures even more effective.

It is also important to note that this is a community-led scheme and has been implemented in response to community concerns.



The scheme is supported by the police who will carry out enforcement of the orders.

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.

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.

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

Friends of Stafford Samaritans	People helping people	£250.00
Marchington Village Hall	Village/Community/Church Halls	£750.00
Abbots Bromley PCC	Repairs To Churches	£500.00
Abbots Bromley Sports Association	Sport	£2,000.00
Abbots Bromley Parish Council	Community (other)	£1,500.00
Denstone Players Amateur Society	Social/Community Projects	£500.00
St Michael's Parochial Church Council	Village/Community/Church Halls	£1,000.00
Kingstone Community Society Ltd	Community (other)	£1,000.00

Much is happening in the area. If anyone wants to apply for funding from this year's £2,500 for schemes that are new and are focused on People Helping People, 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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**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR  
BAGOTS WARD - REPORT**

Not available at the time of going to print.

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly  
held on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley,  
pursuant to notice having been given**

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 bought 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**

**23<sup>rd</sup> 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 be 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 .....