

Bromley Bulletin

Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023 - Issue 78



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Village News



Openreach

Local resident David Cooke is asking for support to bring faster broadband to the parish.

Please can AB friends and family take the time to go to <https://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity> and pledge your free household funding to the Abbots Bromley Exchange project, which is being offered by Openreach to increase internet broadband speeds in the village.

This process won't cost you anything, as each household in the village is entitled to free funding. **You don't have to be a BT customer to apply for your free funding.** You just need to pledge this free funding to the project. It will only take about one minute of your time to complete the four simple steps. We only need a total of around 180 houses from the Abbots Bromley telephone exchange to pledge their voucher. If we can achieve this goal it will improve the internet speeds in the village, especially for those who live in the surrounding areas such as Bromley Wood, Radmore Lane and Seedcroft Lane, where current speeds are pretty low and can cause problems when trying to work from home, watch catch-up TV, stream videos, play games online, etc. Please could local friends and family also share this within your local Facebook network, or similar, to see if we can reach this goal?

PLEASE NOTE: It might be the case that, by applying for free funding, applicants are committing themselves to taking out a full-fibre broadband contract.

Gallimore's Field Update

The Village Hall Trustees have been co-ordinating efforts to raise money for the purchase of Gallimore's Field.

We've tried to keep people informed about the original donations which were collected about five to six years ago, when we first tried to purchase the field. When the purchase looked unlikely, we offered to return donations to anyone who wanted them. If donors were happy for the money to remain as a contribution towards a future purchase, we kept it ring-fenced in our accounts. This amounted to about £8,000. This sum is now part of the total raised so far (£38,000) towards the target of £50,000. The money has always been part of the Gallimore's Field "pot": it hasn't disappeared into general funds. If you'd like further information, please don't hesitate to contact Paul Maidstone, Treasurer or Liz Lampard, Secretary to AB Village Hall Trustees: lizlampard@yahoo.co.uk

Hanging Basket Competition



Just a reminder that Top Shop is sponsoring a village hanging basket competition. The only rules are that the basket should be visible to the general public, and that it should be one you have personally planted. There is no need to complete an entry form (although by completing one you can be sure your basket will be included in the judging), and because baskets will be at their best at different times of the year judging will be ongoing until the early autumn.

Our thanks to Gill and Mark for sponsoring another village event.



What's On

Village Events Calendar

Horn Dance

12 SEP 2023



Horn Dance (Approximate timings)

- 07:00** St Nicholas Church (Service of Holy Communion)
- 07:45** Collect horns from church
- 08:15** Dance on the Village Green
Goose Lane
Yeatsall
- 11:00** Admaston Village
- 12:00** Blithfield Hall
- 13:45** Little Dunstal Farm
- 14:15** Rugeley Turn
- 15:30** The Bagot Arms
- 16:15** Infiniti
- 16:50** The Goat's Head
- 17:30** The Crown Inn
- 18:30** Schoolhouse Lane
Bagots View/Swan Lane
Radmore Lane
Lichfield Road
- 19:15** The Coach & Horses
High Street and Village Green
- 20:15** Horns returned to church (Ancient Service of Compline)

Remembrance

11 & 12 NOV 2023

Abbots Bromley Branch of the Royal British Legion will be conducting annual Remembrance activities at the War Memorial during November 2023.



The Royal British Legion is the nation's principal Armed Forces, and Armed Forces Dependents, charity.

On Saturday **11 NOV 2023** at 11AM, a short service will be conducted in Remembrance of the 1918 Great War Armistice. On Sunday **12 NOV 2023** at 11AM, a full service will be conducted. Parish residents and individual groups will have the opportunity to lay wreaths, and other tokens of their appreciation.



Please consider becoming a member. Searching membership online through www.britishlegion.org.uk will give you an idea of what is required. At this time the annual cost of membership is £18. You can elect to join any Branch. If you elect to join Abbots Bromley (BR3131), you will be directly supporting us to maintain a healthy membership.

Parish Council Drop-ins

23 SEP & 25 NOV 2023

If you have any observations, opinions or questions relating to the parish, please come along to discuss with councillors. Now the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted you might like to seek the parish council's advice about planning matters, particularly if you are thinking of making alterations to your property. A copy is available on the PC's website. Remember: the Neighbourhood Plan is now the planning document which ESBC's planners will use as guidance when making planning decisions.



Parish Council

News and updates



Friel Homes Development update

Clare Lynch (née Friel)

1. We are continuing to soft strip the buildings on the south site, including a large amount of asbestos removal. This is being carried out with the utmost care and following all H&S guidelines.
2. Given the increase in the number of workers on the site carrying out the soft strip, we are introducing site welfare facilities.
3. We received a comment from someone in the village regarding our public rights of way on site. We are working to clear these of vegetation and will then be stoning some areas up to improve access for the public. We will also be stoning up the access into the farmers field and driveway around the menage. This area is steep and muddy so we hope these works will improve the access.
4. We are continuing with decorating/gardening around the perimeter of the site to improve appearance and repairing the Listed Buildings where we are permitted without requiring LBC from ESBC.
5. We are also carrying out some works on the access road at the ABSA grounds which is of course separate to any of our proposals on the former school site but will be done by our Friels team and using our branded vehicles and machines.

You have likely already been made aware, but our application for demolition only on the south site has now been validated and is open for consultation. If the Parish Council have any questions on this, or any other matters, or would like another meeting to run through at any point, please do just let us know and we would be happy to arrange.

BROMLEY BULLETIN

Did you know that the parish councillors hand-deliver the Bromley Bulletin? For those who are little further afield, the PC posts a copy to their address.

We will continue to deliver. However, due to the increase in postage costs, we are appealing to those who receive their BBs by post to receive the publication by email or we can notify you when a new edition is published and leave your copy at Top Shop for you to collect.

To opt in for this service, please contact parish.clerk@abbotsbromley.com

New Parish Councillor

We're delighted to welcome Mr Peter Pratt, our new parish councillor, who will help us in advancing our mission to support the development of the parish.

Peter can be emailed at: peterprattabpc@gmail.com

Parish Life

Parish Council

Many parishioners will be comfortable walking along a footpath through a field with grazing cows. For some, however, this may be an unpleasant experience. Due to an increase in incidents nationally, the PC thought that a few 'Top Tips' may be useful, but ABPC does not accept any liability.

A farmer should only put in a field with a footpath, cows that they deem safe for the situation. Cows and calves are usually excited to see people especially if you have a dog. The cows will want to run over to see you, then follow. They are inquisitive. Keep your dog on the lead, if not the cows will chase and play with your dog. It is not wise to rescue your dog if it is loose, the dog will be able to outrun the cows and follow you to safety.

A few 'top tips' for your safety:

1. Initially, stay as quiet as possible when entering the field to draw as little attention to yourself (and dog) as possible.
2. Carry a stick or long twig to use to keep distance between you and the cows.
3. If cows come over to see you, stop & face the cows. Make yourself as big and wide as you can with your arms out wide and make sudden movements towards the cows to stop them in their tracks, shout 'WHAA' or similar (!) to make yourself scary to them. This should stop the cows from running at you.
4. DO NOT RUN.
5. Walk in the direction that you need to go in or to the side of the field if that makes you more confident. Wave the stick behind you to keep the inquisitive cows at a distance. Keep stopping, turning and waving stick.

The tendency appears to be that people think they are being chased by cows, so they run too. The thought is that this person trips or is nudged by the cow/s, the person then falls over and is trampled!! SO please walk, carry a stick, turn and face the cows with a scary noise and posture, continue to walk forward and turn back intermittently. Go to the side of the field if necessary, continuing to walk along the hedgerow. And finally, it's safer to keep your dog on a lead and make your way quietly so as not to draw attention to yourself and disturb the cows. Enjoy your walks safely!

Nature Corner

Cllr Keith Baker

We're fortunate to be living in a parish which has easy access to beautiful countryside. The benefits of exposure to the natural world to our mental and physical health are well documented, and the parish council is just one of several local organisations trying to improve access for all.

Over half of mental health problems in adult life start by the age of fourteen. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is keen to promote programmes of nature-themed activities, and some GPs are prescribing organised countryside walking activities to help counter mental health problems in adults.

It was encouraging, when walking our lanes this spring, to see the emergence of more wild flowers in our hedgerows and verges. We have an agreement with Highways that the stretch of lane from School House Lane/Woodhill Lane to the Staffordshire Way turn will only have the verges cut in the autumn in order to allow plants to seed and also to afford habitats for insects and small mammals. There is evidence that this is benefiting nature. Certainly there was a greater abundance of wild flowers, with bluebells in particular seeming to thrive (although we're not yet a rival to Jackson's Bank). The insect population seems to be healthier - although this could in part be due to the weather.

Abbots Bromley is close to the Trent Valley, especially the wildlife sites at Rugeley Power Station and Burton Washlands. New films and interactive features can now be explored online at www.thetrentvalley.org.uk. There is an interactive game, three animations about flooding, nature recovery programmes and beavers, and an opportunity to view the Trent Valley by going back in time from pre-history to WWII. It's interesting to know in whose footsteps we are following, objects that will either enhance or restore our natural floodplains in order to combat flooding and to help nature to recover.

I once met ...

Bobby Charlton (by Andy Knipe)



It was the final week of term when the invitation for the school football team arrived. The Aston Villa Community Officer had nominated our lads to visit Villa Park for the launch of a new football scheme for children. Several of the Villa team were expected to be in attendance. The boys, aged ten and eleven, were understandably excited. Managing them on the short walk to Trinity Road was challenging.

Upon arrival we were ushered into a large lounge with claret and blue upholstered furniture, and walls displaying photographs of Villa's past glories. The Community Officer welcomed us with news that the presentation of the "Footwall" scheme would be delayed. They were awaiting the arrival of several "star" players from the training ground. At this point a balding man, in late middle age, walked over. I recognised him immediately. My hero, Bobby Charlton.

"Right lads. Do you know who this is?" Silence, and a shaking of heads. "This is Bobby Charlton. He played for Manchester United and England." Silence and blank stares. "He is England's all time top scorer. He played for England 106 times."

"Hey, we're not here to talk about me. I want to know about you," the man said. "Are you a good team?" "Yes not bad. We won on Saturday morning," came the replies.

More questions followed as Bobby engaged with charm and good humour with a group of lads who had not a clue about his past achievements. Meanwhile, I stood aside, gobsmacked, until he asked us to name the, then, four League teams with an "x" in their name. The boys again fell silent. Fortunately their Headteacher, who, to this very day, is full of useless information, knew the answer. Do you?

If you've met someone who's well known and would like to contribute to this publication, Cllr Keith Baker would love to hear from you! Contact him on 01283 840690 at kbakerabpc@gmail.com.

Memories of Abbots Bromley

In this first of a new Bulletin feature about people's memories of the village in days gone by, Ivy Harley regales Keith Baker with her time working at St Mary's and St Anne's School.

Ivy began work at St Mary's and St Anne's as a maid as soon as she left school at the age of 15. The year was 1948. At the time, Ivy was living with her parents in Hednesford. Along with several other girls she would catch a service bus to the Green Bus Café in Rugeley and change to the Abbots Bromley bus. She and about ten other maids slept in a dormitory at St Mary's, where they would live for six days a week, being allowed one day off. The maids wore overalls for their cleaning duties, and caps and aprons when serving meals. They were not allowed to speak to the girls, or the teachers - although she remembers the teachers as being "lovely"! Like the girls, if a member of staff was walking down the corridor, the maids had to stop and step to one side. Breakfast was served at about 7:00am. Ivy sometimes had to bang the gong that summoned the girls. Later in the day dinner, afternoon tea and supper were served.

Memories of Abbots Bromley ...

Ivy had a break for a couple of years, working for Lotus Shoes in Stafford, but upon marrying local lad Gordon (whom she had met when she and the other maids congregated outside the Coach and Horses) she moved back to the village and resumed work at The School. She remembers that, on Mondays, the vicar, Phil Drabble, and other persons of importance would come for afternoon tea. The maids themselves ate in what was called the "servants' hall" next to the housekeeper's office in St Mary's. Their dormitory was just off the main corridor.

In the village, Ivy recalls that the post office was where "Antlers" is now. Top Shop was run by Mrs Pritchard. Gill Grundy's shop sold yarn and was run by Miss Treadgold. Opposite Top Shop - the other side of Ashbrook Lane - was the Ash Public House before it became the home of Granny Harley (who managed to produce tinned fruit despite war-time rationing!).

Many thanks to Ivy for sharing these memories. If you have memories of local people, places or events, Cllr Keith Baker would be delighted to hear from you. Contact him on 01283 840690 or email kbakerabpc@gmail.com.

Richard Clarke First School **Dan Hindhaugh, Assistant Headteacher**



We had a very busy year at The Richard Clarke First School! With exciting learning projects, trips and events across the school - we're proud to offer a high quality first school education for 4-to 9-year-olds in our village with five single-aged classes.

Towards the end of the last school year, we made visits to local places of interest including Blithfield Hall for Y2 and the Peak Wildlife Park for our Y1 children. Our youngest children in reception held a pirate day, whilst older learners in Y3 visited the National Stone Centre as part of their topic on rocks and soils. Our oldest children were preparing to fly the nest and took part in a three-day residential visit to Condover Hall in Shropshire. We worked closely with local nurseries, middle schools and other providers to ensure a seamless transition between schools and settings for everyone. We also held numerous events - including our Coronation Fair and Sports Day! Both were tremendous successes - with vital money raised for our school PTFA to go towards subsidising educational visits, IT equipment, books and much more!

This summer, as is often the case at the end of the school year, it was a time of change at RCFS as we said goodbye to three long-standing members of staff who many of you in the village may have worked with or known. Mrs Lowther was at the end of our telephones for years and has been a dedicated, friendly face in our school office. We also said goodbye to Mrs Speake who left us after many, many years as a teaching assistant - supporting hundreds of children over the years to develop their early reading, writing and number skills together with amazing pastoral support.

We also lost Mr Hindhaugh, who had been our Assistant Headteacher and Y4 teacher since September 2014. He led improvements in teaching and learning across our school together with our Key Stage 2 phase and provided firm foundations for our Y4 pupils to move on to their next school. In spite of this, we're excited to welcome new staff to our amazing team in September and can't wait to get started! We'd like to take the opportunity to wish the whole community a wonderful future and look forward to welcoming our new reception children in September!

The Parish Council thanks Mr Hindhaugh for his contributions to the Bromley Bulletin and wishes him every success as he relocates.



A Point of View

Sophie Nock, Staffordshire Young Musician 2021

In a first in a series of articles by the younger members of our community, Sophie writes about the importance of music in our lives, and how we can help others to enjoy and participate by supporting two local charities. Imagine a world without music: with state schools drastically reducing music in the curriculum, we may be left wondering where musicians of the future will come from.

Bagatelle on Musicianship

Music is one of the most important aspects of my life. It provides a creative outlet and is an unsurpassed way of relieving stress (especially during the busy summer exam period).

Some people think that to be a musician you have to write music yourself, or that the title "musician" only applies if you have an advanced qualification. In reality, there are no such stipulations. I perform at National Trust houses in Devon with a friend, Simon Arnold. He is officially only a Grade 5 pianist, but is the best sight-reader I've ever met and unarguably a true musician.



It's important to question false beliefs about the nature of music and what makes a person a musician. Although I am striving towards Grade 8 piano and Grade 7 singing, when it comes to knowing that I am a musician, official qualifications don't matter. Music is an intrinsic part of who I am – but I only know it because I have been lucky enough to have two incredible local teachers: Joanne Mayling and Dellal McDonald.

On that note, I'd like to draw your attention to some charities: first, the **Abbotsholme Arts Society**, a local charity in which Dellal is involved. They bring top-class musicians to Abbotsholme School for affordable concerts for locals every month, avoiding the expense of travelling to London. See www.abbotsholmeartsociety.co.uk. Also local is **FOSYM**, which offers financial support to young musicians in Staffordshire. Finally, a charity in which I'm personally involved, recently started by Simon. **OMIYA** (Orchestral Musical Instruments for Young Africans) doesn't yet have a website, but enquiries can be made to srnock@hotmail.co.uk.

We collect used musical instruments to send to Africa, so that young people without access to expensive instruments have the chance to explore music. Creating such opportunities for young people around the globe is important; music should not be limited by geographical or monetary boundaries. The work of these charities is important, and they deserve your support.

We'd very much like to include contributions to the Bromley Bulletin from younger members of our community. If you have a point of view you would like considering for publication, and are of school or post-16 education age, please contact Cllr Keith Baker at kbakerabpc@gmail.com

WANTED!

Young Guest Writers

(secondary school/university age)

Could you write a feature article for Bromley Bulletin? It could be about any topic (e.g. as school/university life; technology; pressure; interest/hobby; village life).



Please contact Cllr Keith Baker
(kbakerabpc@gmail.com)



Our Neighbourhood Plan is now the “go-to” document for planning guidance. Reproduced below are the policies that may help you with your ideas and designs. You're welcome to attend a PC meeting, or to use the Drop-In sessions, to seek further guidance.

DAH2: Extensions

Extensions to existing residential, commercial and community properties must:

- a. complement and not dominate existing buildings.
- b. not cause any significant adverse impact on the amenities of adjacent properties.
- c. maintain adequate functional garden space for residential properties.

Interpretation and Guidance

To avoid dominating the existing buildings, it is often useful for extensions to be set back or to be of a lesser height or smaller scale. The question of whether to continue the existing style of the building or to contrast depends on the specific circumstances and has to be determined on a case by case basis, demonstrating why mirroring existing styling or deviating from it is appropriate in each case. For example, for historic buildings, use of lightweight modern or transparent construction for an extension or link section can have a lesser impact on the original buildings than using heavy masonry construction.

Garden space should be adequate for amenity considerations such as privacy and leisure use. Effective separation between buildings and adjacent sites must be provided. The planting of trees and shrubs is encouraged to soften and screen new developments and reduce the effects of greenhouse gases.

DAH3: Abbots Bromley Conservation Area

1. Development should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Abbots Bromley Conservation Area, including:

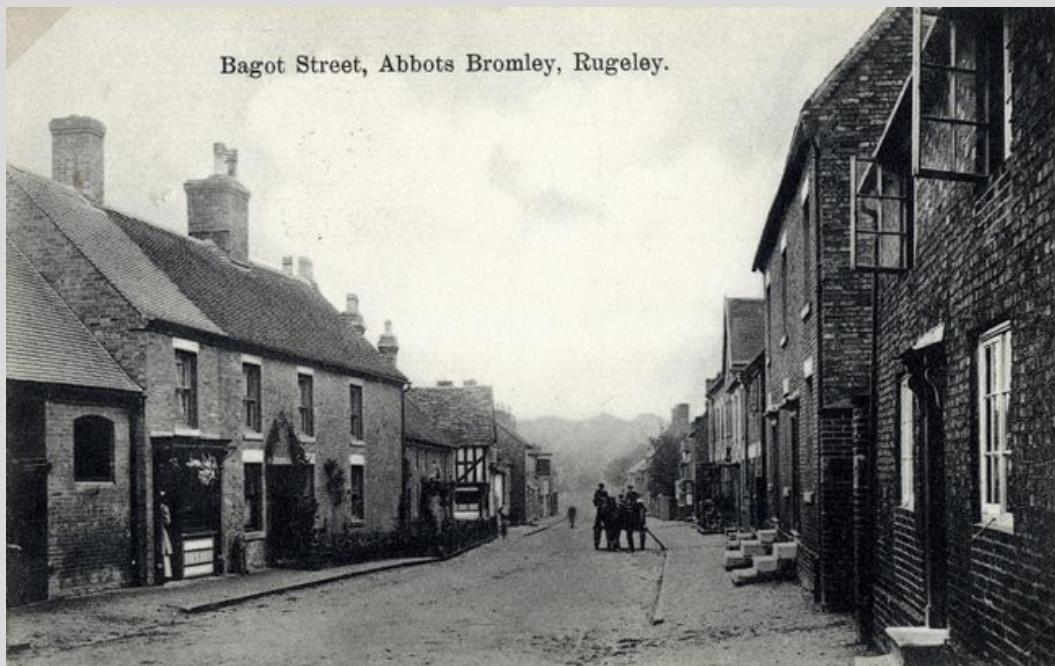
- avoiding harm or loss of mature trees and hedges;
- in the main street, complement the predominant townscape characteristics based on the strong sense of enclosure and definition created by building frontages;
- avoiding harm or loss to buildings and structures that contribute to the special architectural or historic interest of the area.

2. In exceptional circumstances, where the removal of trees or hedges is justified, replacement trees or hedges must be provided to create a similar level of amenity and to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

Interpretation and Guidance

The policy:

- highlights the importance of certain buildings and features in considering impacts on the conservation area;
- draws attention to all buildings that make a contribution to the special interest of the conservation area, creating a collective impact that draws on the local vernacular and contributes to the townscape character of the area. Mature trees are also an important part of the area's character;
- should be applied together with Policies DAH1 and DAH2, which are of particular relevance within the conservation area and setting of listed buildings.



Please contact: dcsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk(link sends e-mail).

Alternatively if you wish to speak to one of the Planning Support Team they will be happy to help, please contact the Planning Team on 01283 508606.

Smart Alert

Sean Elliott, Staffordshire Police PCSO



Every time there's an incident, such as a burglary, I use **Smart Alert** to communicate and make appeals for information. I find this system extremely helpful, and the registered members of the community who receive this information always give me 100% positive feedback. When I make house to house/CCTV enquiries, I try to encourage everyone to register with **Smart Alert**. It's really simple: Go to <https://www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk/> and sign up. Remember to opt in for email notifications.

I usually send out **Smart Alerts** for serious community crime, car crime and burglaries, making appeals and giving updates. I send them in spates, usually three to four a month or more when we're experiencing a series of crimes such as the Mercedes thefts we're currently seeing. It's an excellent way to keep in contact with the community that Staffordshire Police serves, and an excellent way to gather important information that may lead to arrests and convictions of offenders who blight our communities. Please spread the word!



Become an on-call firefighter in Abbots Bromley

Abbots Bromley is home to one of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service's on-call fire station, where on-call firefighters, ordinary members of the community, respond to emergencies.

On-call firefighters valuable difference in their local area. They're not based at the fire station 24/7. They can continue their day-to-day commitments but when they're 'on-call' and an emergency occurs, they have to get to the fire station, put on their uniform, get on the fire engine and head out to the incident. The role of an on-call firefighter offers a wide variety of experiences from attending emergencies, helping vulnerable people and community driven events.

Station Manager, Mark Tattum, said: "On-call firefighters are local residents who provide a certain amount of hours 'on-call' each week and are available and ready to respond when their alerter goes off, which can be any time, day or night just as other emergency workers such as the RLNI do. "We can't predict when emergencies occur so we aim to have as much 'on-call' cover over days, nights and weekends as possible. However, we want to recruit more on-call firefighters at Abbots Bromley Community Fire Station to help us provide an more effective and efficient emergency response."

Mark added: "Many of our on-call firefighters have other jobs and fit in their 'on-call' hours around their commitments. They're trained to the same standards as whole-time firefighters and get paid for the hours they are 'on-call' and for time spent at an incident. "The work is really rewarding and offers training courses, life skills and camaraderie. The team at the fire station is very experienced and eager to share knowledge and experience with others. "So if you're interested in becoming an on-call firefighter, I encourage you to get in touch. You can also contact the On-Call Support Officer for Abbots Bromley, Michelle Dudman on 01785 898787 or 07528 983107, or email michelle.dudman@staffordshirefire.gov.uk. For more information, visit: <https://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/careers/on-call-firefighters/>



Useful contacts

www.abbotsbromley.com/pc

Parish Council

Mr Keith Baker (Councillor)

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Mrs Catherine Brown (Councillor)

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Mrs Rachel Garth (Councillor)

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Mr Richard Love (Chair)

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Miss Laura Parsons (Parish clerk)

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Mr Peter Pratt (Councillor)

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Mr Edward Rodway-Bowden (Vice chair)

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VACANCY 1 (Councillor)

councillor1abpc@gmail.com ★☆☆☆

VACANCY 2 (Councillor)

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Working groups

- ★ Community engagement
- ★ Competitions
- ★ Finance/grants
- ★ Neighbourhood plan
- ★ Recreation/village property
- ★ Traffic/parking/highways

Representatives

- ★ Almshouses
- ★ Schools
- ★ Village Hall
- ★ ABSA
- United Charities (Mr Charles)

ESBC Waste Management

Information about bins, rubbish and recycling

0800 269 098

ESBC Enforcement Team

To report dog fouling, improper parking, etc.

01283 508 576

ESBC Planning Enquiries

01283 508 570

Highways Hotline

To report problems with highways, lighting, signs, etc.

0300 111 8000



Mr Greg Hall

Borough Councillor

greg.hall@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Mr Phillip Atkins

County Councillor

01889 590 922



Police

Non-emergency calls

101

Police Community Engagement Team

PCSO Tim Leathers

timothy.leathers@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

PC John MacDonald

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Sgt Helen Kirkland

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Editor: Helen Lockey

Our next newsletter will be published in Winter 2023. For comments on this publication, or if you'd like to include your news or publicise your organisation/events, please contact helenlockeyabpc@gmail.com by 18 NOV 2023.