

Bromley Bulletin

Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter

MAR 2026 - Issue 83

Cover Photo: Abi Cooper

Community Hub & Shop
Parish news and updates
Community consultation
Best Kept Village competition
What's On

Abbots Bromley
Community Shop & Hub
Now open for business!

Monday to Saturday
8:30AM-12:30PM
2:30PM-6:30PM

Sunday
8:30AM-12:30PM

★
**PET
SUPPLIES**

★
**FRESHLY-BAKED
GOODS
SUBSCRIPTION**

★
**GIFTS &
CARDS**

★
GROCERIES

★
**HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS**

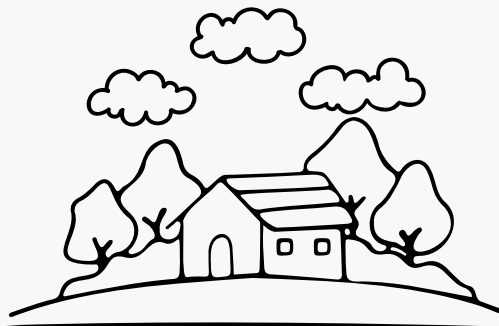
★
NEWSPAPERS

★
**DRY
CLEANING**

★
**SEASONAL
GOODS**



Village News



Happy 4th Birthday Antlers!

Congratulations to Antlers for feeding and watering us over the last fours! May there be many more!



Thanks

The PC would like to thank the growing band of volunteers who:

- regularly collect litter around the parish;
- maintain our village planters.
- pick up after other people's dogs;
- volunteer their time to running clubs and societies;
- who help to make our parish a pleasant place in which to live.

Also, a special thanks to the gentleman who clears the storm drains down Radmore Lane.



Hush. A Quiet Beauty

Congratulations to **Hush** on your reopening at High Ash Farm!

Road closure

WED 08 APR 2026

There'll be pole replacement works on **Ashbrook Lane** undertaken by BT Openreach.



THE BROMLEY BULLETIN IS AVAILABLE ONLINE
abbotsbromley.com

Update: Friel's Development

Friel's submitted a revised planning application to ESBC in January of this year. This was necessary because ESBC's conservation officer wanted the Edwardian building on the equestrian site largely retained, whereas the original planning application (P/2023/00417) was to demolish the building and replace it with housing units.

The revised application now has a few more one-to-two bed units and slightly fewer four-five bed units. The Parish Council is supportive of this change because our Housing Needs Survey is clear that the parish needs more one-to-two bed units. Admittedly these units will be market value and not subsidised, but they might enable more young people to purchase them as their first homes.

According to figures released by the Skipton Building Society, only 1 in 8 first-time buyers can afford their first home in their local area. We hope the figure for Abbots Bromley might be better than this.

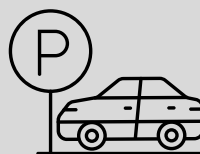
A further amendment to the original plans is for a reduction in the number of apartments for the over 50s on the St Anne's site (behind the chapel). The Parish Council is concerned that insufficient allocated parking spaces have been provided. We have voiced our concerns to ESBC's planning team. Other discussions between the developer and ESBC's planning team has meant ESBC's planning committee is unlikely to consider Friel's planning application in April/May 2026.

Parking across a dropped kerb

We have a serious parking problem in many areas of the village and it may be that someone parks in front of your driveway, preventing you from driving in or out.

What can you do?

If you can, and if you feel comfortable about it, have a pleasant word with the vehicle's owner. If this is not possible then, as long as you have a dropped kerb to your driveway, you can contact:



**East Staffordshire
Borough Council**

01283 509000

Mon-Fri 9:00AM-5:00PM

ESBC has signed up to Civil Parking Enforcement (Code 41UC) and will take action against a motorist who is obstructing access to your driveway.

THE COACH & HORSES, ABBOTS BROMLEY SPECIAL OFFER IN OUR OPENING WEEK



We cordially invite you to celebrate our Grand Opening Week at The Coach & Horses in Abbots Bromley.

As a token of our gratitude for your support, book your table between 12th & 22nd March and receive a complimentary two-night break in the stunning North Yorkshire Moors.

Discover the home of The Famous White Horse and Mouseman Furniture.

Explore Your Getaway: <https://forrestersarms.org>

Terms & Conditions: Offer includes room only, valid for stays in April 2026 (excluding 3rd, 4th & 5th). All parties must be dining from main dishes. Not combinable with other offers or discounts.

Abbots Bromley Nostalgia Team

The Nostalgia Team thanks everyone who supported the events and presentations over the past year



We really enjoy bringing AB local history to the attention of our residents, and are ever grateful for the interest shown. Of course, it's not everyone's 'cup of tea' and we are fully aware of this. However, there is enough positive feedback to enthuse us to carry on for the foreseeable future.

With such a rich local history, we come across some interesting snippets. From our unique Horn Dance, the war years and shared history with the former St Mary & St Anne's School, as well as our many established village groups/organisations. There's always something of interest just waiting to be uncovered.

We wouldn't be able to do any of it without our amazing team of helpers. You know who you are ... Thank you!

abbotsbromleynostalgia.co.uk

info@abbotsbromleynostalgia.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/AbbotsBromleyNostalgia/>

NEW

From 30 MAR 2026 Food Waste Collection Service

The collections start on Monday 30 MAR 2026 and your green outdoor caddy will be collected every week on the same day as either your grey (refuse) bin or your blue (recycling) bin. As the caddy is small please present it in front of your bins so that it is easily visible to the collection crew.

The Waste Team has been busy delivering the caddies throughout January and February. If you haven't received your caddies, liners or the information leaflet:

Email: environment@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk
Tel: Customer Services on 01283 508000.



FOOD RECYCLING

It really does make a difference

Starts 30th March 2026



Recycling your food waste can help you see how much you are wasting, so you can cut down and save money.



Visit the website for further information
<https://orlo.uk/LSK6I>



Best Kept Village Community Competition



2026 marks the 70th anniversary of the Best Kept Village & Community Awards Staffordshire, a celebration of community pride, teamwork, and the outstanding efforts that keep our villages thriving.

Spirit of BKVC Awards

These are based on how we present what happens in our area. The entry may have an environmental message, or something that celebrates the area in which we live.

Picture this competition (5-7 years)

Picture this competition (8-11 years)

This can be a drawing, painting or poster. A maximum of three entries per age group per village.

Vision of BKVC (Young people, 11-17)

Vision of BKVC (Adults, 18 and over)

A video, painting, drawing, tapestry, cross-stitch, poetry and prose or short stories.

Lots of award categories!

Living Countryside Awards

Sponsored by CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

Inspiring Groups

Recognises groups, leading on environmental issues, e.g. local community campaign groups fighting for better services, groups offering advice to residents on matters such as planning, groups maintaining green spaces, etc.

Trailblazer Award

Recognises individual going the extra mile to protect their local countryside, providing significant contributions to projects, or working to maintain parks or local facilities.

Made in Rural Staffordshire Award

Celebrates local businesses, who provide local produce, adding value to our local economy.

Countryside of Camera Award (Children)

Countryside of Camera Award (Adults)

Submit your best photo of the Staffordshire countryside.

Would you like to be a part of Abbots Bromley BKV 2026?

We're looking for a dedicated team to oversee the village's entry. Email us! parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

Lichfield Road footway

With ABSA's new facilities encouraging more of us to visit the site from Lichfield Road, you may be wondering what has happened to the promised footway. Both developers of the two new housing sites have provided a footway behind the hedge which fronts the Lichfield Road, but Staffordshire Highways has still to join it up with the existing footway which currently ends just south of Thyme House. The Parish Council emailed Staffordshire Highways, and received the following response on 13 APR 2025.

Mr. Baker

I refer to your email of 10th April 2025. I have discussed this matter with our development Control team who are leading on the works on Lichfield Road, and they advise that the scheme has an S111 major works agreement that is currently going through technical review. I understand a meeting has been held with all the key stakeholders to update on the scheme.

I believe the County Council also received an FOI request on this matter, to which we have responded to.

I have asked to be kept updated on this matter and I will let you know how we progress and when the agreement is signed.

Richard Rayson
Community Highway Manager. Staffs Highways

The Parish Council is still waiting for an update to this.

Beginners Half-Day Watercolour Workshop

SUN 26 APR 2026

10:00AM to 2.30/3:00PM

High Ash Farm/Cobwebs

£70 per person

Learn basic watercolour techniques in a small group setting and then under guidance apply your new skills to produce your own unique painting

- All materials & equipment for the day + frame
- Refreshments, biscuits and a homemade cake from Cobwebs Coffee shop

S&P Watercolours
19 Goose Lane, Abbots Bromley
07984 147837
spwatercolours@gmail.com



Jubilee and Coronation Cups

You are invited to submit nominations for two cups:

- The **Jubilee Cup** is awarded annually to an individual who has made a major contribution to the community.
- The **Coronation Cup** is awarded to an organisation or business which has made a major contribution to the community.

Email nominations to:
parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

Nature Corner

Cllr Keith Baker

In about 1525 a sapling was just beginning its life in Whitewebbs Park in north London. During the intervening years much has changed but much remains the same. That is the power of trees - to remind us there are things in nature greater and more enduring than ourselves.

And then in April of this year the tree was felled. Why?

Because it was in the way at Enfield's Toby Carvery car park.

It could have lived to a 1000 years old. The tree was, apparently, healthy, having been checked by Enfield Council's experts only five months prior to its felling. The Council is considering taking a civil action against Mitchells and Butlers, but probably won't be able to afford the cost.

- In 2023 100 trees were felled under the cover of darkness in Plymouth to make way for a new development.
- Dozens of ancient oaks have been cleared for HS2.
- Over 400,000 trees have been felled to upgrade the A14 in Cambridgeshire.
- 70% of our ancient woodlands have disappeared and, since the early 1900s, over 80% of our orchards have been lost.

With the need to build many more homes it is probable that trees will not stand in the way of the developers. **Please, if you have to have a tree felled (and permission is required in the conservation area) could we ask that you plant another one to take its place?**



Sir Partha Dasgupta, Cambridge Professor and environmental economist, has stated we need at least 1.7 earths to maintain the world's current living standards.

"Our GDP might be growing but the basis on which we produce and consume degrades and shrinks."

In other words we're running out of the very resources that make the country wealthy.

Please see the "Bulletin" article which summarises responses to the recent Community Consultation document. There is considerable support for the replacing of garden trees in the parish which have to be felled.

The Parish Council will consider whether to add this condition to our Neighbourhood Plan.

Outdoor lighting

Many responses to the question in the Community Consultation about lighting favoured a limit on the brightness of outdoor residential lighting

1. Outdoor lights usually don't need planning permission.

Most domestic outdoor light fixtures won't require planning permission, so you can enhance your garden without paperwork. That said, the law remains clear that lighting should not disturb neighbours or interfere with their enjoyment of home and garden.

If your property is listed or in a conservation area, or if lighting affects local heritage, you may need approval. It's sensible to check with your local planning authority before beginning any decorative or security lighting project.

2. Light that becomes a nuisance can lead to legal action.

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, lighting that's judged a 'statutory nuisance'—for example, shining into someone's bedroom or disrupting sleep—can prompt landlords or the council to investigate and act. If nuisance is confirmed, local authorities can issue abatement notices requiring changes to your lighting setup. In worst cases, fines or legal orders can follow until the problem is fixed.

3. Bright or badly placed lights are the common triggers.

Security lights that dazzle passers-by or floodlit decorations pointing into neighbours' homes often cause complaints. Councils assess nuisance complaints based on how often the light is on, how long it lasts, and its general impact on neighbours. Mitigation can be relatively simple: repositioning lights, shielding them, or using motion sensors can limit intrusion and avoid complaints escalating to legal notices.

4. Wildlife-friendly lighting is often required near protected areas.

If your garden borders a conservation zone, nature reserve, or dark sky area, stricter rules apply. Lighting must not harm species like bats, nocturnal insects, or birds that rely on natural darkness. Simple steps like using low-level, downward-facing lights with yellow or red hues can reduce impact while still allowing you to enjoy your space at night.

5. Bright light can disrupt essential wildlife behaviours.

Artificial lighting interferes with migration, feeding, and reproduction in insects, bats, amphibians, and birds. Even a single spotlight can throw local ecosystems out of balance and attract legal scrutiny from environmental groups or councils. Choosing motion-activated lighting, shielding lamps, and keeping nocturnal areas darker respects wildlife and helps avoid ecological complaints.

6. Installations in conservation areas often require consent.

Historic zones or conservation districts mean home improvements—including garden lighting—must respect the area's character. This can require design-sensitive approval when installing anything visible from the street or public footpaths. It's wise to discuss your plans early with council planners to avoid having to remove or replace lights later if they don't fit with local heritage protections.

Credit: Jennifer Still, Journalist

Abbots Bromley Fire Station

The fire station is a critical resource for both the Abbots Bromley community and surrounding areas, but it needs more on-call firefighters.



On-call Firefighters Needed!

*Are you up for a new challenge this year? Why not follow Katie and Ellie's (below) example and talk to us about joining our crew of **on-call firefighters** here in Abbots Bromley.*



Can I be a firefighter?

The role of an on-call firefighter is unique. You'll be a crucial part of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, as well as your local community.

While this role is unpredictable, it's also exciting and rewarding, so we are looking for those who:

- are over 18-years-old;
- have a positive attitude and a willingness to learn new skills;
- want to make a valuable and worthwhile contribution to the community;
- live or work close to the fire station;
- represent the diversity of our communities; and
- are willing to uphold our Core Code of Ethics.

And in return, you:

- will earn extra income;
- will learn and develop new skills;
- will help to protect your local community, save lives and help others;
- could have the opportunity to work as a full-time firefighter in the future; and
- will have access to other benefits.

We can be flexible around your other commitments.

Call in to the station for a chat Monday evenings from 6:00PM or visit our website <https://orlo.uk/T0znw>

Shepherdess and on-call firefighter, Katie Stanley, balances both caring for a flock and communities across Abbots Bromley. She has encouraged others to consider applying to be an on-call firefighter. Katie's role fits alongside her day job, which sees her care for around 300 sheep.

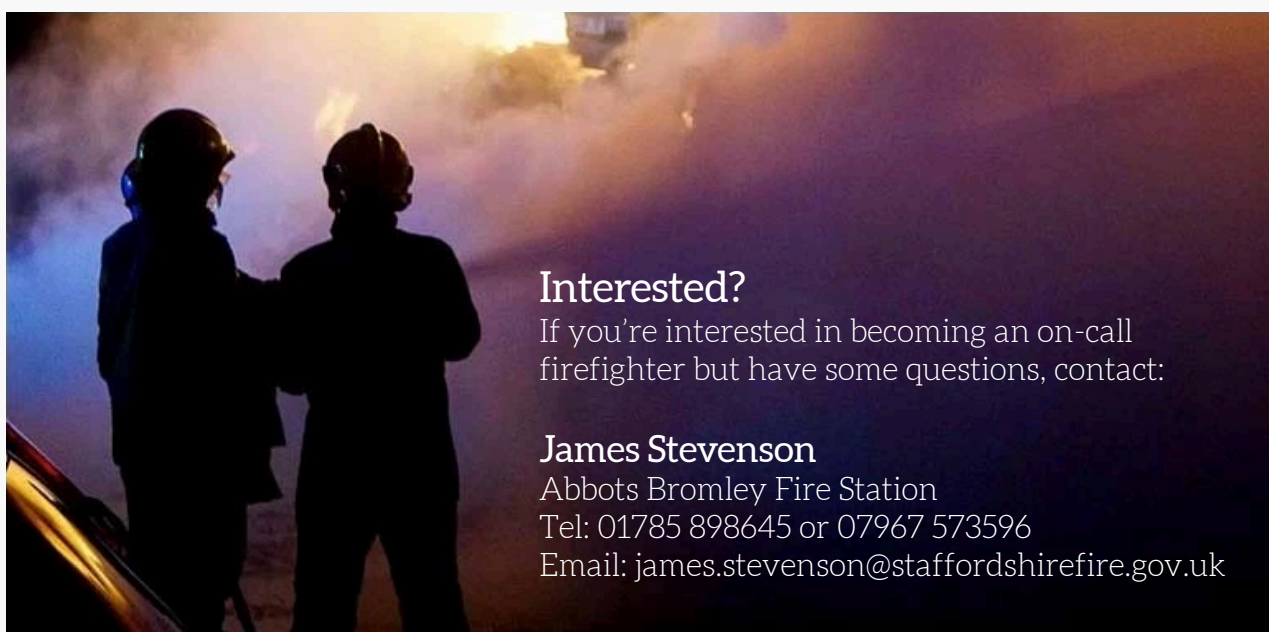


"Working as an on-call firefighter fits really well around my daily sheep activities. I just carry an alerter and when it goes off, I head straight to the station. It's really flexible with having to book off when I need to as well. For example, some of my sheep escaped recently through a broken fence and I was able to book off, sort out my sheep, and then book back on. It's perfect to fit around your lifestyle whilst earning some extra money and doing something that can help the community. I'm also dyslexic, and everyone has been really supportive which has helped me gain confidence in all areas, which helps my home life too."



There was a 70 per cent increase in the number of outdoor fires in Staffordshire in 2025.

There were 1 828 outdoor fires from April to September 2025 compared to 1 076 in the same period in the previous year, resulting in a 21 per cent increase in the overall number of incidents that were responded to.



Interested?

If you're interested in becoming an on-call firefighter but have some questions, contact:

James Stevenson

Abbots Bromley Fire Station

Tel: 01785 898645 or 07967 573596

Email: james.stevenson@staffordshirefire.gov.uk



The Spring Table Afternoon Tea at Hoar Cross Hall

SUN 15 MAR 2026

12:00PM-4:00PM

From £45 per person

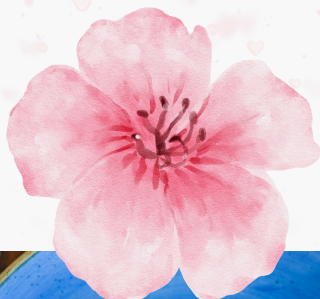
A large pot of freshly brewed loose-leaf tea, featuring your personally chosen blend. A delightful selection of warm, buttery scones, delicious finger sandwiches.

Hoar Cross Hall Spa Hotel

Maker Lane, Hoar Cross, Staffordshire, DE13 8QS

Tel: 01283 576522

Website: book.baronseden.com



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea in The Boat House, Aston Marina

SUN 15 MAR 2026

1:30PM, 1:45PM, 2:00PM or 2:15PM

£35.00 per person

Make Mother's Day extra-special this year and enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea featuring delicious savoury and sweet treats, with the perfect ambience created by incredible harpist Jessica Louise.

Aston Marina

Lichfield Road A51, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8QU

Tel: 01785 819702

Email: info@astonmarina.co.uk

what3words: supreme.gobbling.mealtime

Happy Mother's Day



Mother's Day Events at Moddershall Hall

SUN 15 MAR 2026

- Breakfast at The Oak House 8:30-10:30AM
- Lunch at The Oak House or The Venue: 12:00PM-3:00PM (Three courses: £30.00 per person)
- Half-day Spa Package (£115 per person)

This Mother's Day, treat the special ladies in your life with a delicious meal out. Enjoy three courses from our Mother's Day menu including delicious traditional roasts plus a selection of some of the most popular dishes.

Tel: 01782 476688

Email info@theoakhousemoddershall.com



World of Wedgwood Afternoon Tea

SUN 15 MAR 2026

11:30AM-3:30PM

£50 per person

Treat Mum to a little bit of luxury this Mother's Day. Join us in the Wedgwood Tea Room to celebrate the special women in your life with our iconic Wedgwood Afternoon Tea, with added bubbles! Relax into the melody of a harpist, whilst you indulge in three tiers of delicious savoury bites, scones, a selection of sweet treats, unlimited loose-leaf tea and a glass of fizz.

Wedgwood Drive, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent

Staffordshire ST12 9ER

Tel: 01782 282986

Email: info@worldofwedgwood.com



Mother's Day Ceramic Photo Holders Workshop

SUN 15 MAR 2026

10:00-11:30AM or 1:00-2:30PM

£28 per person

Swap the usual plans for something a little more creative this Mother's Day. Join us for a ceramic workshop where you and your mum can relax, laugh and create your own ceramic photo holder. We'll take a photo of you both to place in the finished glazed holder. Tea, coffee and cake provided.

Valentine Way

Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2FJ

Email: info@loveclay.co.uk

Website: loveclay.co.uk



Mother's Day Lunch at Keele Hall

SUN 15 MAR 2026

12.30PM: Cocktail or class of fizz, Great Hall

1:00PM: Three-course lunch, Salvin Suite

£40 per person

The Salvin Suite provides a real wow factor to any occasion! Featuring the original ornate ceiling decorations and complemented by views to both the Italian Gardens and Keele Hall lakes, it's the perfect setting to enjoy Mother's Day. Also, we'll be providing a craft table to keep little ones entertained. After lunch, why not take a stroll in the gardens, weather permitting, of course and enjoy the first signs of springtime at Keele?

Keele Hall, Keele University

Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

SUN 15 MAR 2026

1.00PM

£24.95 per person

Indulge in a traditional afternoon tea all served on Burleigh Pottery in our beautiful Burgess Room, perfect for mums, grandmothers, aunts and the special ladies in your life. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are available. Please state in the relevant section when booking if you have any allergen or dietary requirements.

Middleport Pottery

Port Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST6 3PE

**STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE**

Bagots Parish Council Report

01-31 OCT 2025

Serious acquisitive crime

- Business Burglary= 1 report
- Malicious Communications = 1 report
- Theft Other = 1 report
- Vehicle Crime = 1 report
- Violence Against the Person = 1 report

The Business Burglary relates to an attempt entry to a premises. The Malicious Communications relate to text messages. The Other Theft relates to a potentially stolen item. The Vehicle Crime relates to a stolen vehicle. The Violence Against the Person relates to an altercation between a van driver and a cyclist.

Anti-social behaviour

- No reported incidents

Transport-related

- RTC (non-reportable) = 2 reports
- Transport Related = 4 reports

The RTCs relate to a single vehicle incident, and a 4-vehicle incident. The Transport Related incidents relate to 1 tree in the road, 1 report of a possible car meet, 1 report of speeding vehicles, and 1 report of a cow in the road.

Local policing team

- PCSO Tim Leathers – timothy.leathers@staffordshire.police.uk
- PCSO Dominka Siwek - dominika.siwek@staffordshire.police.uk

Smart alert

Be smart and keep updated – get free, localised crime alerts and community safety advice by utilising the Staffordshire smart alert app. This is available free and is available for both apple and android devices. You can also get email alerts through the following website; www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk/staffs//

Update PCSO review



Dear all,

As promised, I wanted to keep you updated on the progress we have made in our PCSO review.

I am pleased to say the preferencing and posting panels have been completed and we have managed to give the vast majority their first choice of shift pattern. There are only a handful of colleagues that require further focus, but we are working through these at pace and are confident we will find solutions that work for all involved.

We continue to engage with and listen to our PCSOs and so we have made some slight adjustments to the plan as we move forward. One important change is the new shift patterns will now go live on 1 June, as we have given PCSOs an extra month to make any changes required.

The end result is we have a good spread of resources to help deliver quality neighbourhood policing, alongside our partners, in the months and years to come. With a further 26 officers being added to neighbourhood teams in 2026/27, in addition to the 53 added this financial year, we are well placed to solve the ongoing challenges, prevent crime and improve public safety in local communities.

I will continue to keep you updated on our progress with this important work and of course welcome any feedback or opportunities to collaborate on improving public safety across Staffordshire.

Thank you.
Emily Clarke
Chief Superintendent – Local Policing

A safe and confident Staffordshire

ABBOTS BROMLEY SPORTS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY UPDATE

Chris Wood, Chair, ABSA

Your Community Project

As we all move closer to the end of yet another year, it is time to reflect on what has been achieved as well as look forward to what needs to be done. For ABSA it has been another year of development and investment in the sports and well-being facilities in the village.



ABSAFest 2025

Again, this was a roaring success with six bands entertaining the crowds, enabling ABSA to raise £14.6K, some of which was put towards the multi-use court development, the purchase of new machinery and funding towards the new Clubhouse.



Floodlit, Multi-Use Court

On 03 MAY 2025, the new multi-court facility was officially opened by representatives of HS2, Mr Ben Robinson MBE and Dave Robertson MP. Since that date the court has become a fantastic village and community amenity with children, women and men utilising it daily for exercise and inclusive sport. ABSA is indebted to Forkers Ltd for the recycled stone used in the construction of the court and Ben Robinson plus the Trustees of The Mark Benevolent Fund for their generosity in funding the purchase and installation of the floodlights. This means activities can continue right through the winter months when individuals within communities can feel more isolated.

The Mark Benevolent Fund

This was used to fund improvement of the sanitary and sewerage system, enabling ABSA to provide an off-mains solution for wastewater management on site.



Abbotts Bromley Cricket Club

ABSA wishes to congratulate Abbotts Bromley Cricket Club for their crowdfunding, which raised £30k for the construction of permanent high quality practise nets to be built in March 2026, as well as winning the League for the second time in successive years and winning the Bailey Cup. Look out for many more youngsters playing this season!



Abbotts Bromley Football Club

Also, congratulations to Abbotts Bromley Football Club for their cup winning exploits in April 2025 as Division 2 Trophy winners and for their great start to this season.



ABSA Grounds Team

The success of the grounds means we need more volunteers to join our team! Perfect for retirees who love being outdoors or anyone with a bit of time on their hands.

- Have you ever secretly fancied using a ride-on mower?
- Do you enjoy being outdoors, pottering about, keeping things tidy and lending a hand where it's needed?
- Have you ever wished to be able to "give something back" but not yet found the right cause?

If so, we'd love to have you on our volunteer team at the ABSA Grounds! As well as getting some fresh air you will be part of a community team, sharing a pint or a cuppa and helping to put time into a very worthwhile cause - enabling people young and old to join in team sports, socialise, have fun and get fit. If this sounds like something you might like to be involved with, we would love to hear from you. Please contact John:

Tel: 07855 397048

Email: info@absasport.co.uk



www.absasport.co.uk

THE GOAT
PRESENTS

**SAINT
PATRICKS
DAY**

PUB QUIZ

MARCH 17, 2026

-7:30 SEATS. STARTS 7:45 SHARP
-£5 PER HEAD

-ALL PROCEEDS TO AB FIRST
RESPONDERS

-BENJIS PIZZA 5-9PM

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!
CALL THE GOAT 01283 841683
OR IAN 07854 094620 TO BOOK

BISHTON HALL

OPEN DAY

Sunday 22nd March | 10am – 3pm

Come and explore our resident businesses...

- ★ Meet the makers
- ★ Browse unique boutiques
- ★ Enjoy exclusive specials & workshops

*Complimentary glass of fizz
on arrival in
Sparrow's Tearoom*

MAY BANK HOLIDAY

**FOOD FRENZY
FESTIVAL**

RUGELEY TOWN CENTRE

SATURDAY / SUNDAY / MONDAY
2ND / 3RD / 4TH MAY

THE
GASWORKS
SUDBURY

JOIN THE FUN AT OUR

**CHILDREN'S
EASTER DISCO**

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH
4:30-6:30PM



FRI 27 MAR 2026
4:30-6:30PM

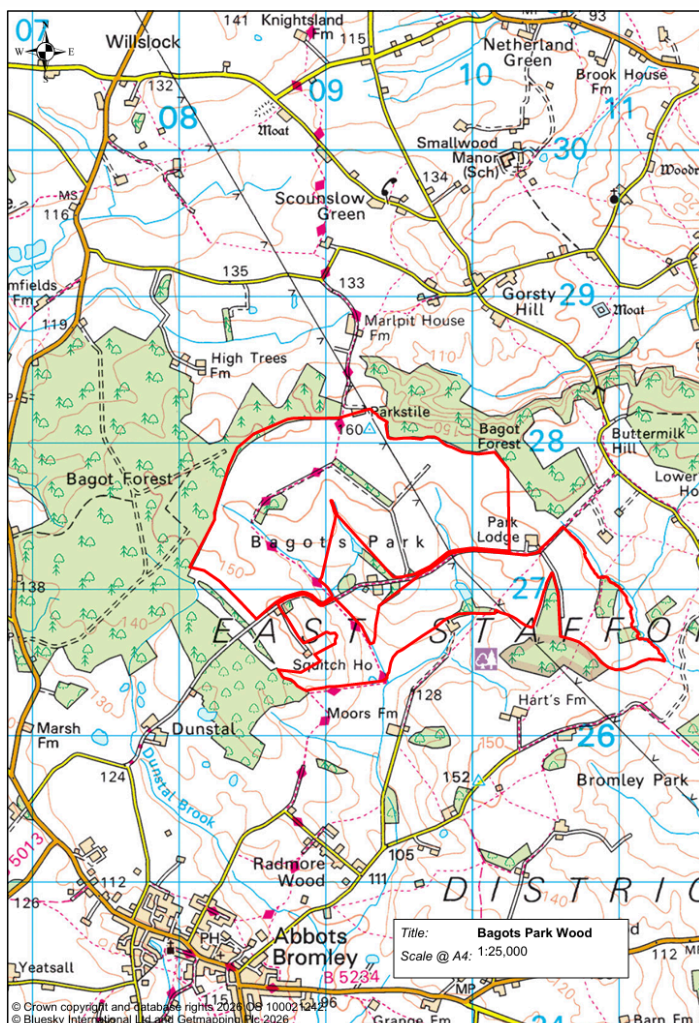
Bring your little ones to our fun-filled Easter Disco
£4 per child, including squash and a hotdog or
burger

Bagot Wood Park

The Woodland Creation Team
Forestry England

Plans for Bagots Park Wood, a new 303-hectare woodland, are afoot on land recently purchased near the village of Abbots Bromley

Over the coming years, we plan to plant a mix of tree species at Bagots Park Wood that will absorb carbon from the atmosphere, enhance the local landscape, and provide important habitat for wildlife. In the future, it will also bring a range of other benefits, including providing a source of sustainable timber. The woodland will be open to the public, which means local people, including residents of Abbots Bromley, will be able to explore and enjoy it to support their health and wellbeing.



To help collect initial feedback from local people and other key stakeholders, we have today published an early engagement survey, which you can respond to at: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eebpw/>

There will be a more formal public consultation later this year, which we will be sharing along with our draft design plans and more information about the new woodland.

We have also sent letters to addresses within 1 kilometre of Bagots Park Wood, as well as any properties that have the potential to overlook the site, to inform them about the new woodland and to ask them for their initial thoughts.

For more information about the woodland please visit:
www.forestryengland.uk/article/bagots-park-wood

What's On

Village Hall Events Calendar

Village Hall Activities

Mondays

9:30-10:30AM **Yoga**

- Gemma Williams 07943 572994

7:00-9:00PM **Spotlight Dance**

- Angelina Socci 07801 659540

Tuesdays

9:30-10:15AM **Keep Fit**

- Wenisa Flynn 07719 973177

10:30-1:00PM **Barbershop Singers**

- Peter Livesey 07972 571893

7:30-8:30PM **Yoga**

- Gemma Williams 07943 572994

Wednesdays

9.15-10.15am **Badminton**

- Anthea Blower 07943 571878

7.30-8.30pm **Keep Fat**

- Doug Moore 07831 140711

Thursdays

6:00-7:00PM **Badminton**

- Sheila Cotton 07805 341875

6:00-7:00PM **Mind**

- Wenisa Flynn 07719 973177

Fridays

7:00-9:00PM **Indoor Bowls**

- Barry Joynes 01283 840070

Saturdays

9:00AM-2:45PM **Spotlight Dance**

- Angelina Socci 07801 659540

Sundays

7:00-9:00PM **Bowls**

- Barry Joynes 01283 840070

The 200 Club

Every month the Committee runs a raffle for the chance to win three prizes of £25 and a grand prize of £50.



The 200 club has a maximum number of 200 participants entered into a monthly draw, which takes place each calendar month at the Village Hall Committee meeting. There are four numbers drawn, three of which win a £25 prize and the 4th wins £50.

One number costs £12 for a year – and there are a few numbers still available! If you'd like to take part and have the chance of winning please email us at abvillagehall@gmail.com.

Winning numbers are published monthly in the Parish Magazine.

Village Hall

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 11 MAR 2026 | 7:30PM

Memorial Room | Village Hall



Chocolate Bingo

SAT 21 MAR 2026
Abbotts Bromley Village Hall
6:00PM Doors open
6:30PM First game
Refreshments available

A CELEBRATION OF SIMON & GARFUNKEL

AS HEARD ON
BBC RADIO

PERFORMED **LIVE** BY
TIM CHU & IAN BAILEY



"Tim and Ian moved between harmonies and shared vocals like a gestalt entity, with all the vocal nuances, dynamics and phrasing that make S&G so unique while still finding their own take on the material. Absolutely first class"



"A stunning blend of observation, interpretation, and perfect vocal synergy"



FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2026

ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

Doors 6.45pm/**7.30pm start**

BAR OPENS 6.45PM

TICKETS £15 www.ticketsource.co.uk/timtone-productions

Box office call 0333 666 3366

In AB- from The Pie Shack 07794 422 996 or 07790 912255 (cash only)

www.classicsingersongwriters.co.uk/sandg

Village Clubs & Societies

★ Abbots Bromley Art Class

MEETS:

Thursday during term time
2:00-4:00PM | Church House

CONTACT:

Pat Clare
Tel: 01889 270139



★ Abbots Bromley Book Club

MEETS:

Third Monday bimonthly
7:30PM | Church House

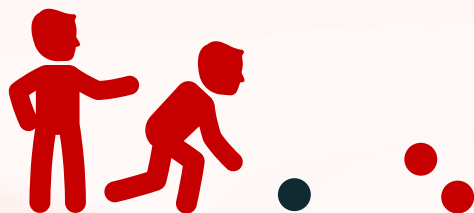
★ Abbots Bromley Badminton Club

MEETS:

Wednesday mornings
Village Hall

CONTACT:

Anthea Blower
Tel: 01283 840624

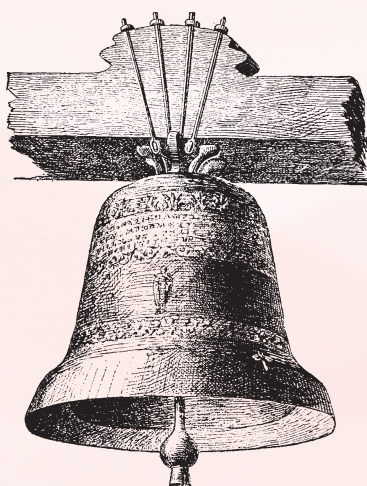


★ Abbots Bromley Bowls Club

We play friendly fixtures against other local villages and hold "roll up" games on Saturday afternoons, Tuesday mornings and some evenings. As members you would be able to play any time the green is available.

CONTACT:

Carol Bradford
Tel: 01283 840510



★ Abbots Bromley Bellringers

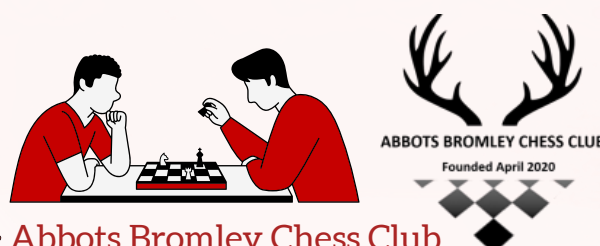
We practice on Tuesday evenings; and ring for church services on Sunday mornings and also for weddings. Afterwards, we can usually be found in The Bagot Arms.

MEETS:

Tuesday (Practice nights)
7:30-9:15PM | St. Nicholas' Church
Sunday
9:15-9:45 | St. Nicholas' Church

CONTACT:

Stuart Hutchieson
Tel: 01283 8406360
Email: shutchieson@btinternet.com
Website: sites.google.com/site/abbotsbromleybellringers/home



★ Abbots Bromley Chess Club

MEETS:

- Online friendly and league matches against teams across the world every week
- 'Over the board' meet-ups in the village on Sundays at 5:00PM

CONTACT:

Peter Hornsby
Email: abbotsbromleychessclub@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.chess.com/club/abbots-bromley>

Village Clubs & Societies

★ Abbots Bromley Community Choir

MEETS:

Second and fourth
Thursday of the month
6:30PM | St. Nicholas' Church

CONTACT:

Jane Morris
Email: janermorris@yahoo.co.uk



★ Abbots Bromley Historical Society

MEETS:

Last Wednesday of the month
7:30PM | Church House

CONTACT:

Janice Rea
Tel: 07484 793792
Email: janrea@hotmail.com



★ Abbots Bromley Garden Club

Formerly Abbots Bromley Produce Guild

MEETS:

Second Wednesday in the month
7:30PM | Church House

CONTACT:

Kath Cadman
Tel: 01283 840606



★ Abbots Bromley Indoor Bowls Club

MEETS:

Friday or Sunday
7:00-9:00PM | Village Hall

CONTACT:

Arthur Tindle: 07923 506000
John Thorndyke: 07531 191735
Barry Joynes: 01283 840070



★ Abbots Bromley Friendship Group

MEETS:

First and third Tuesdays of the month
2:00-4:00PM | Church House

CONTACT:

M. Allaker
Tel: 01283 840936



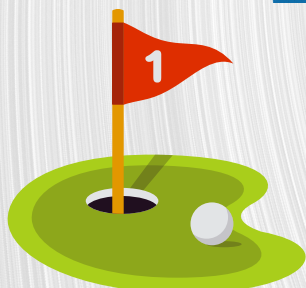
★ Abbots Bromley Ladies Club

MEETS:

Normally the third Thursday of the month
7:30PM | Church House
Membership: £10 per year

CONTACT:

Karen Hill
Tel: 01889 586379
Email: mksm.hill@googlemail.com



★ Abbots Bromley Golf Society

CONTACT:

Andy Kirkland
Tel: 01283 840699 or 07960 116599

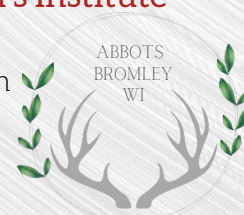
★ Abbots Bromley Women's Institute

MEETS:

Second Monday of the month
7:00PM | Church House

CONTACT:

Liz Palmer
Email: lizpalmer696@gmail.com



Village Clubs

For tiddlers to teens!

(4-7
years)

Abbots Bromley Rainbows

Fridays | 4:00-5:00PM | Church House

Jenny Simmonds

Tel: 01283 840887

facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069851853517

(7-10
years)

Abbots Bromley Brownies

Fridays | Church House

Lesley Griggs

Tel: 07800 824732

(10-14
years)

Abbots Bromley Guides

Mondays | 7:00-8:30PM | Scout Hut

Emma Catterall

Tel: 01283 840358

(6-8
years)

Abbots Bromley Beavers

Tuesdays | 6:00-7:15PM | Scout Hut

Hannah Love

Tel: 07807 102162

The Beavers are active and do activities inside our regular meeting place, go on day visits, and even have occasional sleepovers! We play games, do crafts, make new friends, explore the outdoors and create things.

(8-10½
years)

Abbots Bromley Cubs

Tuesdays | 6:30-7:30PM | Scout Hut

Simon Wilson

Tel: 07962 401224

Email: cubs@abbotsbromleyscouts.com

Cubs do a wide range of activities, including the occasional camp. Activities range from arts and crafts to climbing and abseiling to kayaking and sailing – we like to give the cubs an experience of the adventure that scouting has to offer!

(10-14½
years)

Abbots Bromley Scouts

Wednesdays | 7:00-8:30PM | Scout Hut

Rebecca Male

Tel: 07913 355072

Email: scouts@abbotsbromleyscouts.com

<http://abbotsbromley.scoutsites.org.uk/>

facebook.com/abbotsbromleyscouts

(14-18
years)

Abbots Bromley Explorers

To register interest:

Ed Bayliss

Tel: 07768 046582

The Welephant Club



Join the Welephant Club to follow Welephant, Blaze Bear, Cybil Squirrel and Priya on their adventures to keep us safe. If you want to know more about fire safety, water safety and road safety the Welephant Club is for you.

Four to eight year olds living in Staffordshire can join the club for free, just ask your parent or guardian to complete a membership form.



<https://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/your-safety/welephant-club/>

Village Clubs

For sports enthusiasts



Abbots Bromley Cricket Club

Abbots Bromley Junior Cricket Club

Kassie Tracey (Secretary)

Tel: 07970 183205

facebook.com/abbotsbromleycc/

Abbots Bromley Football Club

Mark Hurst Snr

Tel: 01283 840210

Mark Hurst Jr

Tel: 07956 501364

Website: abbotsbromleyfc.co.uk



Abbots Bromley Junior Football Club

Nigel Richards (Chair)

Tel: 01283 840142

Nick Wells (Secretary)

Tel: 01283 840142

Email: abjuniorfc.secretary@gmail.com

Website: absasport.co.uk/abfc-junior



Abbots Bromley Netball Club

Susan Mayman

Tel: 07973 791943

facebook.com/groups/331003893671840



Abbots Bromley Sports Association

Chris Woods (Chair)

Tel: 07770 488975

Email: chris_wood53@live.co.uk

Website: absasport.co.uk

facebook.com/AbbotsBromleySportsAssociation



Abbots Bromley Tennis Club

Tony Rawlinson (Chair)

Tel: 07544 266330

Email: tony.rawlinson@btopenworld.com

Judy Smith (Secretary)

Tel: 07496 913751

Email: judysmith.abromley@gmail.com

abbotsbromleytennisclub.co.uk



Blithfield Sailing Club

Based in Blithfield Reservoir., new members are welcome and beginners training courses are run for both juniors and adults throughout year.

The main sailing day is Sunday, although Wednesday evenings and Saturdays are also busy during the summer.

Tim Male

Tel: 01283-840429

Email: tim.male@blithfield.org.uk

Website: blithfield.org.uk

Other Village Organisations



Abbots Bromley Village Hall

- A spacious main hall that can seat up to 140 guests, complete with an overlooking balcony
- A large reception foyer with a bar and kitchen facilities
- Two separate meeting rooms on the first floor, each with a seating capacity of 40 people



Liz Lampard (Secretary)
Tel: 01283 840567

Rose Maidstone (Bookings)
Tel: 07794 422996 (9:00AM-9:00PM)
Website: abbotsbromleyvh.com

Abbots Bromley Church House

Gill Grundy (Bookings)
Tel: 01283 840208



Abbots Bromley Fire Station

Sara Wilkinson (Watch manager)
Tel: 07956 111633
staffordshirefire.gov.uk



Abbots Bromley First Responders

We are a group of currently fifteen volunteers who are in training to act as lay medics in the local area. Our role is to respond to emergencies, and to arrive first on the scene to complement, but not replace, the statutory ambulance service response.

Rob Stevenson
Tel: 07800 849237
www.wmas.nhs.uk



Royal British Legion

Tom Wheeldon (Branch chair)
Tel: 01283 840096



St. Nicholas' Fundraising

Martin Godfrey (Chair)
Tel: 01283 840771



Parish Council

Our responsibilities

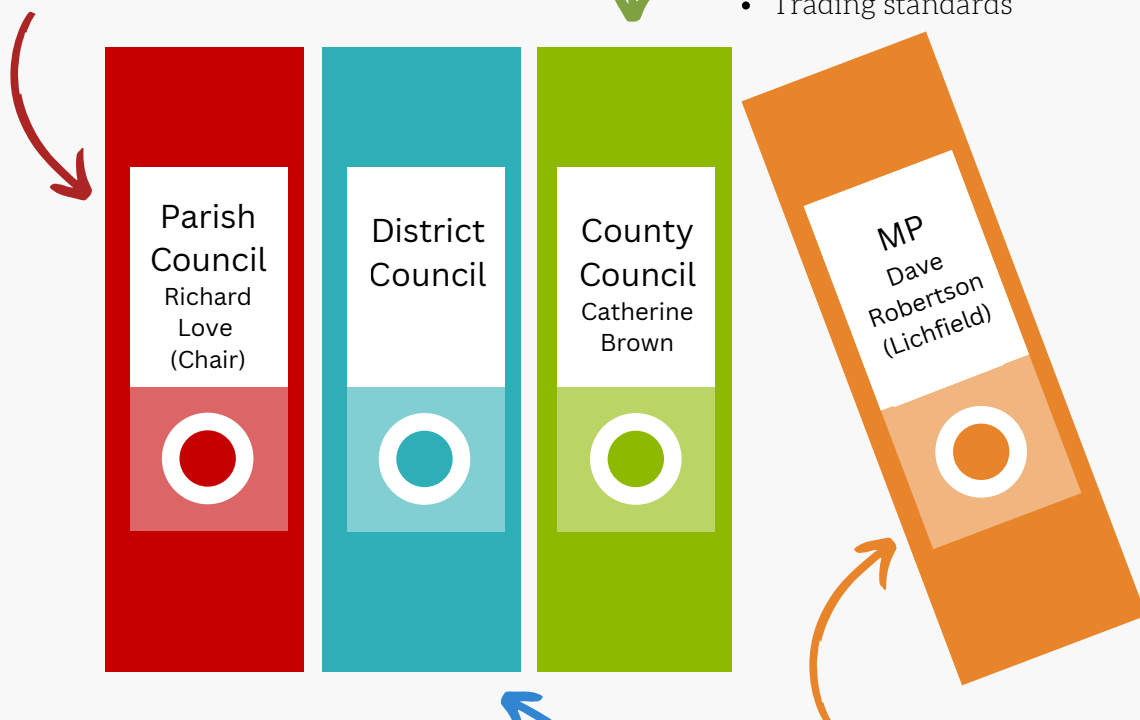
Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Local level: Grassroots governance

- Local amenities (allotments, cemeteries, playgrounds)
- Street lighting, minor road maintenance
- Residential support
- Neighbourhood plan
- Bus shelters, footpaths
- Local bins and litter
- Community events
- Planning application review
- Grants to local groups and charities

Upper tier: Large-scale services

- Education and school placements
- Social services
- Adult social care
- Highways and transport
- Public health
- Libraries and archives
- Emergency planning
- Fire and rescue services
- Waste disposal
- Street lighting
- Trading standards



Middle-tier: Local services and planning

- Economic development
- Housing
- Local planning and development
- Environment health
- Leisure and culture
- Voting and elections
- Council tax
- Benefits
- Licencing
- Community safety
- District parks and open spaces

National level: Legislative representation

- Legislation and policy development
- Constituency representation
- Government scrutiny
- Casework and support
- Campaigning and advocacy
- Attending Parliamentary sessions
- Working with local councils

Dave Robertson

Email: dave.robertson.mp@parliament.uk

Website: members.parliament.uk/member/5126/contact

Parish Council News



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A total of 156 households returned their Community Consultation booklets. The Parish Council wishes to thank them for taking the time and trouble, and for their thoughtful and interesting responses.

There were four questionnaires:

- Traffic and Parking
- The Neighbourhood Plan
- The Bromley Bulletin
- A new burial ground

Not all returns had responses to all questions. A full report will be available soon on the Parish Council's website.

Traffic and Parking

- 94% had concerns about traffic speed.
- 63% had been personally affected by excessive traffic speed.
- The most popular measures for reducing traffic speed were SID feedback sign, enhanced speed limit signage, speed humps, a pedestrian crossing and a police speed camera (in that order).
- 85% had concerns about the weight and size of some vehicles.
- 92% felt parking was a problem, with 89 responses citing "obstructing the line-of-sight of other motorists", 63 a cause of congestion and 55 a danger for pedestrians.
- 92% felt action should be taken against those parking illegally (such as on double-yellows).
- 98% would like planning consent refused if adequate off-road parking was not available.
- 78% thought new-builds should be required to provide sufficient space for vehicles to turn round in order to enter/exit in a forward gear.
- 3 volunteers have offered to join a Traffic Plan working party.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

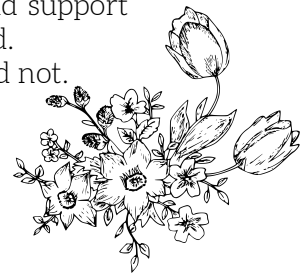
- 56% felt they were only partly familiar with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Only 6% felt ESBC's planners supported the NP through their planning decisions (although 52% were "not sure").
- 74% supported a restriction on the power of outside lighting for domestic properties.
- 82% wanted felled trees to be replaced.
- 81% would not support more housing through an extension to the settlement boundary.
- 79% favoured mirroring for new-builds/extensions, whilst 2% favoured a contrast. (19% unsure)

The Bromley Bulletin

- 67% said they had read every edition.
- 59% favoured 3-4 editions per year. No-one thought it should stop.
- The most popular features were planning information (119) and adverts for upcoming events (90), although all features proved popular.
- 70% thought the "Bromley Bulletin" kept them informed about parish matters.
- 26% felt it kept them connected to our community.
- 75% preferred a paper copy.
- 81% who opted for a digital version in April were unaware it had been published.

A New Burial Ground

- 62% said they would support a new burial ground.
- 38% said they would not.



All written observations and suggestions will be published on the Parish Council's web site, in addition to figures for all of the questions asked in the Community Consultation booklet.

What's On

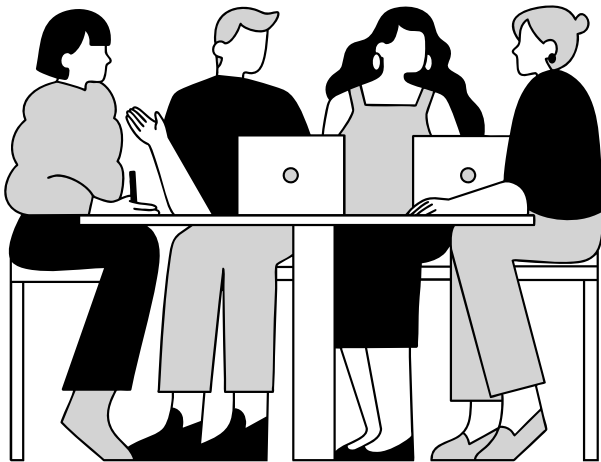
Parish Council Events Calendar

Parish Council Meetings 2026

Wednesdays | 7:00PM

Memorial Room, Village Hall

- 28 JAN 2026
- 25 FEB 2026
- 25 MAR 2026
- 29 APR 2026
- 20 MAY 2026 (Parish Assembly)
- 24 JUN 2026
- 29 JUL 2026
- AUG 2026 - Summer recess
- 30 SEP 2026
- 28 OCT 2026
- 25 NOV 2026
- DEC 2026 - Christmas recess



Parish Council Surgeries 2026

Saturdays | 10:00-11:00AM

Church House

- 21 MAR 2026
- 16 MAY 2026
- 25 JUL 2026
- 26 SEP 2026
- 21 NOV 2026

Highways

Update

From SCC Cllr Catherine Brown

Weekly Stats for week commencing 19 JAN 2026

Highways enquiries

- Closed (within the last 7 days): 1032
- New (within the last 7 days): 1520
- Open (inspectors – rolling): 3082
- Open (other- rolling): 1353

Work

- Gullies visited: 2 583, 84.6% observed running
- Potholes patched: 387
- Emergency jobs completed: 38

Pothole jobs completed by category

- Cat 3 - 128
- Cat 2 - 90
- Cat 1 - 188
- Emergencies - 38

Speed Indicator Signs SID

- SCC is reviewing all equipment, so all licences are on hold for the foreseeable future.

Abbots Bromley

- B5013 Steering group ongoing.
- Lichfield Road 'Slow' tarmac painting will follow the purchase of an Amenity Sign. S7V equipment in place now.
- High View footpath. Specification meeting last week with SCC survey/engineers.
- Village Hall Community Shop support: Ongoing. Correspondence with Lead for SCC Communities and Culture.
- Rural crime incident just coming in. Please report all incidents.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Staffordshire

The government has launched its formal consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Staffordshire, originally indicated this was to happen in May 2026.

This statutory consultation seeks views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has received from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent's principal councils.



The proposals are:

Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Stafford Borough Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council proposed 2 unitary councils, comprising the current areas of:

- North Staffordshire: Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, and Stoke-on-Trent
- South Staffordshire: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford, and Tamworth

Staffordshire County Council proposed 2 unitary councils, comprising the current areas of:

- East Staffordshire: East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, and Tamworth
- West Staffordshire: Cannock Chase, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, and Stafford

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council proposed 2 unitary councils: This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils, comprising the district areas of:

- North Staffordshire: Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire Moorlands, plus **16 parishes from East Staffordshire** and 6 from Stafford
- Southern and Mid-Staffordshire: Cannock Chase, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth, and the remaining 22 parishes of East Staffordshire, and 34 of Stafford

Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire Borough Council, Tamworth Borough Council proposed 3 unitary councils, comprising the current areas of:

- North Staffordshire: Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, and Stoke-on-Trent
- South-West Staffordshire: Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, and Stafford
- South-East Staffordshire: Lichfield, East Staffordshire, and Tamworth

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council proposed 4 unitary councils., comprising the current areas of:

- Unitary Authority 1: Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Unitary Authority 2: Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, and Stafford
- Unitary Authority 3: Staffordshire Moorlands, and Stoke-on-Trent
- Unitary Authority 4: East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth

This consultation asks you questions about each proposal. This consultation will last for seven weeks and closes at 23:59 on **26 MAR 2026**.

The link to the online survey is:
<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/staffordshire-and-stoke-on-trent/>

Finally, NALC has published a new online resource showcasing practical case studies on devolution from parish and town councils. You may find this useful:

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/resource/nalc-publishes-new-devolution-case-studies-resource-for-parish-and-town-councils.html>.

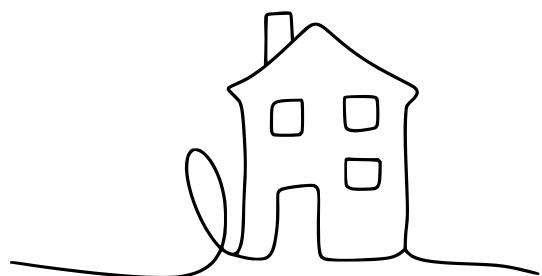
The Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan

Keith Baker, Councillor

Your responses to the NP questionnaire (which was part of last autumn's Community Consultation) showed that 11% of respondents were unfamiliar with the NP and 56% were only partly familiar.

I thought it might be helpful, therefore, if over the course of the next few Bulletins, I explained its purpose and policies. In this edition I shall attempt to explain where a NP fits into the national and regional planning frameworks:

The government has a national planning policy which is set out in a document titled "**The National Planning Policy Framework**" (NPPF). As I'm sure you are aware, the current government has made changes to the NPPF in order to make it easier for its target of 1.5 million new homes to be built. Central to the policy is the phrase "presumption in favour of sustainable development" - in other words "approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission".



NPPF and the Local Plan

Local planning authorities (ours is East Staffordshire Borough Council) must support NPPF but can draw up what's called a **Local Plan** in order to determine where large housing developments should be built.

The government has set each planning authority a quota of new homes. ESBC's quota was 11,648 from 2012-2031 (the duration of its Local Plan. It was reviewed in 2015 and 2020). ESBC's strategic housing sites were Burton and Uttoxeter, with villages making up the shortfall. Abbots Bromley, being classed as a Tier 2 village, had to accommodate 40+ new homes, which the PC at the time decided it would achieve by extending the settlement boundary (i.e., the imaginary ring drawn around the village outside of which only certain types of new dwellings can be built) along Lichfield Road and Uttoxeter Road.

An important point to note is this: in order for a Local Plan to be valid, a planning authority must demonstrate it has a 5-year supply of building land in line with meeting its quota of new homes. ESBC did have well in excess of five years until the government altered the way things were calculated, and at the last audit (May 2025) it had about 5.2 years of land supply.

The government has recently increased ESBC's housing quota. When the next 5-year land supply audit is done in April/May of this year, I am told things will be very tight. If ESBC fails to meet its 5-year land supply figures, then its plans for what should be built where will be suspended and it will be a developer's free-for-all.

Fortunately for Abbots Bromley village, we have our Neighbourhood Plan, which will still be used for planning guidance irrespective of the fate of ESBC's Local Plan.



What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan:

- allows a community to determine certain things related to housing development within its settlement boundary – mainly things related to appearance and materials;
- cannot stop development. (Remember NPPF 39's "presumption in favour of sustainable development"); and
- must support the policies of the Local Plan which, in turn, must support the policies of NPPF.

This is why, despite our Community Consultation results, showing overwhelming support for limiting the strength of domestic outdoor lights, and for requiring any felled trees to be replaced by saplings of a native species, these desires can not be reflected in an updated NP because they do not support NPPF policies.

To see a copy of our Neighbourhood Plan (including maps of our settlement boundary and conservation area), or to read a full breakdown of the responses to our Community Consultation questionnaires, please visit the Parish Council website.

In the next Bulletin I will explain the first of our NP policies: DAH – Design and Heritage.

SPEEDING

A Speed Indicating Device was activated just before Christmas 2024

We are aware that Lichfield Road has experienced excessive speeds within its 30mph zone ever since the speed limit was imposed as a result of the extension to the settlement boundary in order to accommodate new housing.

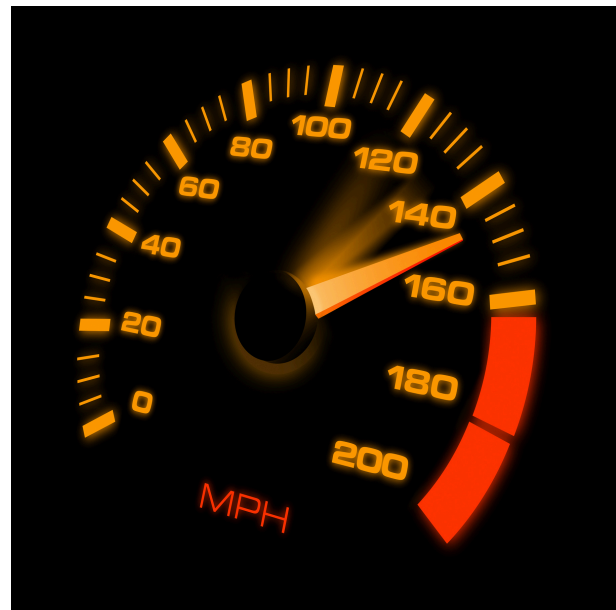
The Parish Council began gathering evidence as far back as 2018 through the **SpeedWatch** team. The team disbanded when it seemed their efforts were not being recognised by the police and Staffordshire Highways.

An on-site meeting with representatives from Staffordshire Highways did not translate into any measures being taken to reduce traffic speed.

Our SID has produced some alarming data since it was installed in December 2024. Two bodies were contacted: the **police** who have responsibility for traffic speed, and **Staffordshire Highways** who have responsibility for traffic-calming measures.

The Police's Chief Constable was sent SID data, with a request for a meeting to discuss the matter of speed limit enforcement. He passed the request down to a local Inspector and she asked our PCSO to investigate. Our PCSO has done his best to support us but, as he acknowledges, his powers of influence are limited. However, he recommended that we contacted the **Staffordshire Safer Roads** team.

The Safer Roads team responded by saying they could give us some 30mph stickers for wheelie bins but that was as far as their support was able to go.



- Motorways carry 21% of traffic and the death rate is 5%.
- Rural roads carry 44% of traffic and the death rate is 60%.
- Speed is a factor in 57.7% of deaths on the roads.

We must significantly reduce the speed of traffic within the Lichfield Road 30mph zone.

Unfortunately, neither the police nor Staffordshire Highways accept SID data, and when asked if they could collect their own data, both replied that did not have the resources to do so. Fortunately Cllr. Catherine Brown has broken the impasse by arranging for Amey to position a speed camera on Lichfield Road – the data from which will be acceptable to Staffordshire Highways. The camera has been active since early February. We are awaiting feedback.

SPEED & TRAFFIC SURVEY

Summary for Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley: 28 JAN to 12 FEB 2026

Week One (28/01/2026 – 04/02/2026)

- Average (mean) speed northbound – 32.6mph
- Average (mean) speed southbound – 37.5mph
- 85th percentile speed northbound – 39mph
- 85th percentile speed southbound – 43.8mph

Week Two (05/12/2026 – 12/12/2026)

- Average (mean) speed northbound – 32.4mph
- Average (mean) speed southbound – 37.7mph
- 85th percentile speed northbound – 38.3mph
- 85th percentile speed southbound – 44.1mph

Note: The 85th percentile speed represents the speed at or below which 85% of vehicles were travelling. For example, if the 85th percentile is 50 mph, then 85% of all vehicles travelled at 50 mph or less. This measure is used nationally by the police when considering speed enforcement thresholds and by local highway authorities when assessing highway design or speed-related concerns.

Comments

The data shows that the 85th percentile speeds are not compliant with the 30mph speed limit, indicating a road safety concern based on vehicle speeds (the police enforcement threshold is 10%+2mph). The Road Safety Team has confirmed that a van assessment for mobile enforcement has already been submitted for this location and we'll be updated once this has been completed.

Vehicle Classification

The figures shown in the attached counts are based on a continuous 24-hour automated traffic survey undertaken from 28/01/26 to 12/02/2026, at the same location as the speed survey. Vehicle categories ("Bins") are defined as:

- Bin 1 – motorcycles
- Bin 2 – cars and vans
- Bin 3 – Light Goods Vehicles
- Bin 4 – Medium Goods Vehicles
- Bin 5 – Heavy Goods Vehicles

Bins 3, 4 and 5 are the key figures for this survey. The combined HCV figures, are:

Week One (28/01/2026 – 04/02/2026)

- Northbound - 71 vehicles over 3.5 tonnes
- Southbound - 80 vehicles over 3.5 tonnes
- Total flow - 151 vehicles within 24 hours

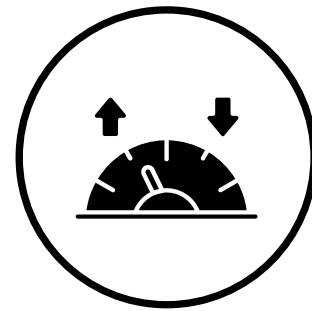
Week Two (05/12/2026 – 12/12/2026)

- Northbound - 74 vehicles over 3.5 tonnes
- Southbound - 76 vehicles over 3.5 tonnes
- Total flow - 150 vehicles within 24 hours

Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Traffic Working Group (TWG)

Members: Keith Baker, Mark Cameron, Teresa Froggatt, Peter Male and Nick Round



This group was formed as a result of an invitation to join published in last autumn's Community Consultation questionnaires. Its brief is to consider responses to the Traffic and Parking questionnaire, and to report its recommendations to the Parish Council.

The group has been meeting once a month since January. The main agenda item for February was that of the traffic-calming measures suggested by your responses. The group's recommendations, in descending order of your most popular suggestions, are as follows:

- **Another Speed Indicating Device (SID):** Our data from the Lichfield Road SID supports national data: that SIDs have little to no effect on traffic speed after two to three weeks. For this reason the TWG consider it unjustified to purchase a second SID. The recommendation by a study of the use of SIDs is that they be moved between at least three locations every three weeks. Staffordshire Highways, (which approves the siting), has declined to have any further involvement with SIDs and thus the approval given a few years ago for a SID on Uttoxeter Road is now in limbo. Irrespective of this, the Parish Council will be recommended to pursue the moving of our Lichfield Road SID to a place on Uttoxeter Road/Bagot Street because, if anything is to be done about excessive speed through the village, we need data to support our concerns.
- **Enhanced Signage:** Some motorists ignore the 30mph signs and it is questionable whether more would make any difference. However additional signs would be a relatively cheap option, which Highways might consider.
- **Speed Humps/Rumble Strips:** Highways has made it clear this is not an option as the noise and vibration created would be unacceptable to residents on the main street.

- **Pedestrian Crossing:** The TWG supported the idea of a pedestrian crossing at the Goat's Head corner, which might help to reduce traffic speed and would contribute to the safety pedestrians crossing the road to get to the nursery, school, surgery and church. It was accepted that the cost would be at least £25 000.
- **Police Speed Detection Device:** The Police has made it clear they do not have the resources to fund this, despite there being an under-used device currently in Leek, which could be transferred to Abbots Bromley.
- **Speed Reduction Road Markings:** Again, a cheaper measure for Highways, but effectiveness is thought to be limited.
- **Chicane:** With the extended 30mph limit on Lichfield Road, the current chicanes were considered to be ill-positioned. A new set of chicanes towards the end of the 30mph limit would be desirable, but expensive.
- **Raised Area of Road:** Thought to be a possible speed deterrent if positioned in the village green area.
- **20mph Speed Limit on main street:** Would be costly. Would motorists comply? Would the Police enforce when the current limit is not enforced?
- **Flashing Beacons:** Nuisance to residents if shining through windows.
- **Raised Traffic Island:** One at the junction of Lichfield Road and Ashbrook Lane might enhance road safety for motorists, particularly those exiting Ashbrook Lane.

The TWG also considered whether reconvening the SpeedWatch team might provide much-needed data to support the Parish Council's requests for any of the above speed-reduction measures. Details of the community's responses to the Traffic Questionnaire (which formed part of the Community Consultation booklet) can be found on the Parish Council's website. abbotsbromley.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ABPC-Highways-Survey.pdf

Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Traffic Working Group

Interim Report on Traffic Planning

The group held meetings in Church House on 05 JAN 2026 and 02 FEB 2026, with a further meeting scheduled for 09 MAR 2026. It is following steps outlined in the document "Best Practice Guidance for Developing a Traffic Plan in Staffordshire" and is therefore gathering data and considering responses to public consultation.

Data gathering

Apart from that gathered through the Community Consultation questionnaires - has proved frustrating because neither Staffs Police nor Staffs Highways will accept SID data as evidence of the need for action. In addition, our Community SpeedWatch team has been told Lichfield Road is unsuitable for the use of the camera. Fortunately Cllr. Catherine Brown has funded a speed and traffic count box on Lichfield Road. This is currently in place and will record traffic speed, volume and size.

All data will be shared and will be acceptable to the Police and Highways. The working group requests funding from the Parish Council for a similar recorder to be placed on the main street of the village (c.£400) in order to gather data to aid discussions about traffic speed, size and congestion.

Other suggestions for the PC's action include investigating the use of the Special Constabulary; arranging a meeting with the Police/Police Commissioner + Staffs Highways; the drawing up of a code of conduct with the local farming community and their contractors + delivery drivers + regular HGV users of the main street.

The next meeting will consider parking and traffic Congestion, led again by the community's responses to the relevant questionnaire.

Community feedback

The group has evaluated responses from the community to various traffic-calming measures which are in general use in the county. Measures which were felt by the group to be worthy of further investigation were:

- The redeployment of our Lichfield Road SID to a place on the main street. (Unfortunately SCC Highways appears to have put a moratorium on SIDs.)
- A new pedestrian crossing on the Goat's Head corner.
- A raised area of road on the main street.
- Speed Reduction road markings on entrances to the village.
- A raised mini traffic island at the Ashbrook Lane/Lichfield Road junction.
- A chicane towards the end of the 30mph zone on Lichfield Road.
- The revival of the SpeedWatch team.

The majority of these measures would involve considerable expense at a time when funding is unavailable. Therefore a campaign under the banner "**Abbots Bromley: A Considerate Community**" might be effective by appealing to people's sense of community responsibility. In addition to articles on social media, and in the Bromley Bulletin and Parish News, a draft of a "Polite Notice" for vehicle windscreens is being drafted for approval by the PC and the Police.

Planning advice Garden structures

With thanks to Nate Sullivan

Garden structures can be trickier than they appear. Stray just a tad over legal limits and you might find yourself in hot water with planning laws, facing potential fines pushing up to 20,000 in some cases.

Many sheds, outdoor workspaces and al fresco areas are covered by permitted development rights, but they still come with a set of guidelines, especially when it comes to size, height, where they sit, and their purpose. And with more people now turning these spaces into mini studios, gyms or even the occasional guest accommodation, knowing the lie of the land is vital.

If your building is over 2.5 metres tall and it's within two metres of your boundary, you could be in breach of planning rules. If you're looking to add a garden building, make sure you plan carefully and check ESBC's local guidance before starting. Even small details, like adding a green roof, fitting insulation, or placing a window facing a neighbour, can cause issues with the council. The goal is always to create a space that works beautifully for you, without drawing the wrong kind of attention.

As more people use garden rooms as offices, studios, or occasional guest accommodations, the lines can get blurry. If you're running a business, staying overnight, or installing electrics and plumbing, you may need planning permission or even building regulations approval. It's always better to check before you commit to a design.

How to stay on the right side of the rules

- Watch the height and boundaries - your structure may only be up to 2.5m high if it is within 2m of a neighbour's property.
- Only use half the space - any structures in your garden cannot cover more than half the land around your original house.
- Don't overstep the mark - if you're planning to build closer to the road than your main house, you will need to get full planning permission.

Are there any limitations in place?

If your home is a listed building or situated in a conservation area, the regulations may be stricter.

Planning for power, lighting, or a water supply?

Bear in mind that these additions may necessitate additional approval. If you're unsure, consult your local council's planning department or a garden building specialist. They can provide the necessary guidance before you commit your time and resources to a project. Turning a garden building into a home a garden office or gym is normally allowed, but turning it into a fully self-contained flat with its own kitchen and bathroom is a different story. That kind of change counts as creating a new dwelling, which isn't permitted automatically.

If you want living space in the garden, you'll need proper planning permission. Without it, you risk enforcement action from the council and problems if you ever sell the property. Verandas, balconies or raised decking over 30cm, adding a place to sit outside sounds harmless, but verandas, balconies, and high decking aren't included in permitted development rights. These are considered bigger changes and can affect neighbours' privacy. If you want raised areas higher than 30cm, check with ESBC first. Keeping outdoor structures low avoids issues, but for anything larger, approval is needed.

**If in doubt, contact ESBC's
Council Planning Team!**

Tel: 01283 508606

Email: dcsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Buildings in your front garden

While back gardens are often more flexible, front gardens come with tighter rules. Putting a shed, office, or greenhouse in front of your house usually isn't allowed without planning permission. If you're thinking of building near the street, always check first. It avoids wasting time and money on something the council could ask you to remove later.

Covering more than half your garden with buildings

There's a limit on how much of your garden you can build on. If more than 50% of the land around your house becomes covered by outbuildings or hard structures, you'll need permission. Think about how much space is already taken up before adding new structures. Staying under the half-garden rule means you're less likely to run into problems.

Projects in conservation areas or protected zones

If your home is in a conservation area, the usual freedoms don't apply. Even small outbuildings could need approval because of stricter rules. Check your property's status before building. If you're in one of these areas, expect to apply for permission for most changes, no matter how minor they seem.

High garden walls, fences, and gates

You can usually put up boundaries, but there are limits. Anything over two metres high in a back garden, or over one metre near a road, could require permission. Exceeding those limits puts you at risk of enforcement. Measure carefully before adding height. If you want taller boundaries, apply to the council first, rather than risk being told to take them down later.

Hot tubs, large ponds or noisy water features

While you can install water features or tubs, if they cause a nuisance through noise, overflow, or smell, the council may step in. Bigger projects could fall under regulations and require permission before going ahead. Think about the impact on neighbours. Keeping features modest avoids issues, but for larger builds, it's safer to check with ESBC before spending money.

Using a garden building as a business base

A hobby space or home office is fine, but running a full-time business from your garden isn't always covered by permitted development. If clients visit regularly, or it causes extra traffic, permission is often required. If you're planning business use, be upfront with the council. It avoids complaints from neighbours and the risk of being ordered to stop trading from the property.

Building near listed properties

If your home is listed, the rules are even stricter. Outbuildings, walls or other alterations within the garden often require listed building consent as well as planning permission. Ignoring this can bring heavy penalties. Check your property's listed status before making changes. If it is listed, expect to need approval for almost any work within the garden boundaries.

Raised play structures

Climbing frames, treehouses, or other raised platforms for children can exceed height restrictions. If they overlook neighbours' gardens or breach the 30 cm rule, they'll often need planning permission.

Keep children's play areas low to the ground to avoid issues. If you're planning something bigger, check first to make sure it won't cause complaints or force you to alter it later.

Projects where article 4 applies

Some councils issue what's called an Article 4 direction, which removes permitted development rights in certain areas. If your property falls under one, even small garden builds could need permission. Always check with ESBC before starting work. An Article 4 area means the usual rules don't apply, and ignoring it could cause major headaches later on.

Extensions that count as new buildings

Extending into your garden with something that looks more like a house extension than a shed often needs planning permission. Bigger garden rooms, home gyms, or workshops can cross this line easily. Keep structures small and clearly separate from the main house if you want to stay within permitted development. For anything larger, go through the proper approval process to avoid problems.

Abbots Bromley Village Hall

Local community venue in the heart of the village

Our beloved Abbots Bromley Village Hall, which has been a cornerstone of our community for over 25 years, has hosted events and gatherings, and has provided a space for countless memories.

The Village Hall is run by volunteers and we need your help to ensure it continues to thrive. Whether you can contribute your time, skills, or resources, every bit of help is greatly appreciated. Perhaps you have some fantastic ideas and time for fundraising, or you could lend a hand behind the bar. Whatever you can offer, we would love to hear from you!

If you're interested in supporting our Village Hall, please get in touch with us at abvillagehall@gmail.com. Together, we can ensure that this cherished venue remains a vibrant and essential part of our community.



Volunteers needed

- Bar service during events
- Fundraising ideas and planning
- Promoting the hall for bookings
- Helping out in the Community Hub & Shop
- Joining the Village Hall Committee

Email: abvillagehall@gmail.com

The Village Hall Committee Meets:

On: Second Wednesday of the month
In: The Village Hall
At: 7:30PM

Committee members are elected annually at our AGM, the next one taking place in May 2026. Members of the community and surrounding areas are welcome to attend our AGM and are invited to other meetings and events held throughout the year.

Village Hall Committee

Chair:

- Simon Wilson

Secretary:

- Liz Lampard

Treasurers:

- Paul Maidstone & David Thompson

Committee members:

- Rose Maidstone
- Keith Baker
- Sue Washbourne
- Jo Fox
- Rachel Walters
- Larry Gane

abbotsbromleyvh.com

Farming Life

Cllr Rachel Garth

How you can help

- **Buy local.** e.g. High Ash, Antlers, Deer Park, Denstone Farm Shop.
- **Shop seasonally.** Canalside Strawberry picking, New farm Produce at Elmhurst for all berries and asparagus.
- **Back local events.** Staffordshire County show in May, Open Farm Sundays, Maker's Market in Uttoxeter and we have an Abbots Bromley charity tractor run in December too.
- **Support fair pricing.** Where possible, buy from retailers who pay farmers a fair price for their products. Some supermarkets are getting better at this!
- **Follow the Countryside Code.** Shut gates, keep dogs on leads and take litter home.
- **Buy British.** Look for the Red Tractor or British Lion mark — it ensures high welfare and safety standards.
- **Share the good stories.** Farming is the backbone of our rural community.



in [Instagram] [Facebook] 10 % MEMBERS DISCOUNT **SPORTING PB**

FOOTBALL AND MULTI SPORTS CAMPS

SCAN 



FOOTBALL

➔



MULTI SPORTS

CAMP DETAILS

TUTBURY (MULTI SPORTS)
31ST MARCH / 1ST APRIL / 2ND APRIL
RICHARD WAKEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ABBOTS BROMLEY (FOOTBALL)
7TH APRIL / 8TH APRIL / 9TH APRIL
ABBOTS BROMLEY SPORTS GROUND

PLACES FILL FAST – SIGN UP TODAY FOR A CAMP THEY WON'T FORGET!

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- SKILL-BUILDING, TEAMWORK & CONFIDENCE

GIVING EVERY INDIVIDUAL THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL BEST

www.sportingpb.co.uk

RECEPTION – YEAR 6 9:00 – 3:30 £22 PER DAY

Join Our Playtown!

9.15am-11.00am
First Wednesday of each month

Kingstone Village Hall ST14 8QN

What to expect

- A range of engaging role play ideas in our playtown including a Dr Surgery, supermarket, beauty salon and much more
- £3 per child
- Car parking available on-site
- Toilet facilities available
- Friendly atmosphere

Contact:
Amy on 07527884872

Come Play, Learn, and Grow Together!

Come along and bring your imagination to help our new play town come alive.

Another new Tai Chi for Health

Beginners class starting at Stramshall Village Hall on Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 11am

Due to the success of the 10am class, I am offering a follow on class at 11am, to enable more people to experience the health benefits of tai chi.



Improve balance & muscle strength



Reduce Stress & Tension



Improve flexibility & heart fitness

This beautiful form is for arthritis and falls prevention.

My other classes:

Tuesdays:
Beginners Stramshall Village Hall at 10am & 11am

Wednesdays:
Doveridge Village Hall, 9.30am & Alton Village Hall, 11am

Thursdays:
Uttoxeter Heath Community Centre, 7pm

Fridays:
Marston Montgomery Village Hall, 10am



Tai Chi for Health
Dr Paul Lam



Mental Health First Aider
MHFA England

Christine Bettson
Tel 07547488507
Instagram Tai_Chi_with_christine
✉ chrisbettson@aol.com

Jacob Collier MP invites you to his

Department for Work & Pensions

Burton and Uttoxeter JOBS FAIR

✓ CV Workshops ✓ Self Employment Advice

Friday 20th March 2026
10am – 2pm

Pirelli Stadium
Princess Way, Burton-on-Trent, DE13 0AR

Provided by **FREE shuttle buses available for Uttoxeter residents**
For timetable information, please contact Jacob.

Sponsors










JACOB COLLIER MP
✉ jacob.collier.mp@parliament.uk
☎ 01283 296529

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOW

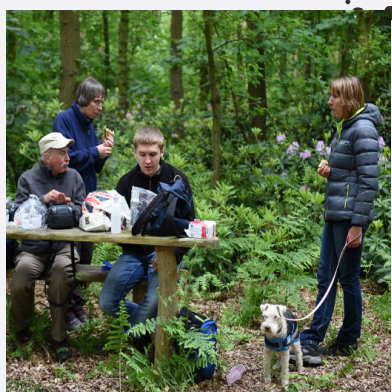
27-28 MAY 2026

The Staffordshire County Show has been taking place for over 200 years and is a big part of Staffordshire life, celebrating agriculture, competition, entertainment, food, shopping and so much more.



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From 24-28 MAY 2026



**STAFFORDSHIRE
COUNTY SHOWGROUND**

Weston Road | Stafford | ST18 0BD
Tel: 01785 258 060 | Email: enquiries@staffscountyshowground.co.uk

Useful contacts

Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Mr Keith Baker (Councillor) ★★☆☆★

kbakerabpc@abbotsbromley.com

Mr Neil French (Councillor) ★★☆☆

nfrench@abbotsbromley.com

Mrs Teresa Froggatt (Councillor) ★★☆☆

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Dr Helen Lockey (Councillor) ★☆☆☆☆

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Mr Richard Love (Chair) ★★☆☆★

rlove@abbotsbromley.com

Miss Laura Parsons (Clerk) ★☆☆☆☆

parish.council@abbotsbromley.com
07931 346096

Mr Nick Round (Councillor) ★☆☆☆☆

nround@abbotsbromley.com

Mr Edward Rodway-Bowden (Vice chair) ★★☆☆★

erodwaybowden@abbotsbromley.com

Vacant (Councillor)

One position

Working groups

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

Representatives

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



Editor: Helen Lockey

Our next newsletter will be published in Summer 2026. For comments on this publication, or if you'd like to include your news or publicise your organisation/events, please contact hlockey@abbotsbromley.com by 01 JUL 2026.

East Staffordshire Borough Council

ESBC Waste Management

Information about bins, rubbish and recycling
0800 269 098

ESBC Enforcement Team

Report dog fouling, improper parking, etc.

01283 508 576

enforcement@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

ESBC Planning Support Enquiries

01283 508 606

dcsupport@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire Highways Hotline

Report problems with highways, lighting, signs, etc.

0300 111 8000



Ms Bev George

Borough Councillor

Tel: 01283 712369/07876 151860

Email: bev.george@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Mrs Vicki Gould

Borough Councillor

Tel: 07812 729826

Email: vicki.gould@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Mrs Jacqui Jones

Borough Councillor

Tel: 01283 711343

Email: jacqui.jones@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

Ms Catherine Brown

County Councillor

Email: catherine.brown1@staffordshire.gov.uk



Police

Non-emergency calls: 101

Police Community Engagement Team

PCSO Christopher Edwards

christopher.edwards@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

PC John MacDonald

john.macdonald@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Sgt Helen Kirkland

helen.kirkland@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk