

**POLICE**

**Staffordshire Police non emergency number - Dial 101**

Eccleshall Police Station  
01785 234832

You can contact the Officers who work from Eccleshall Police Station by dialling **0300 123 2345** and when prompted enter their Airwave number.

PC Karl Green  
Airwave Number 04989

PC Vicky Ison  
Airwave Number 05359

PC Helen Davies  
Airwave Number 05647

PCSO Ian Brewis  
Airwave Number 16759

PCSO Ricky Hunt  
Airwave Number 16760

PCSO Dianne Lutwyche

**In an emergency dial 999**

**REFUSE LORRY**

The Civic Amenity Lorry will be on Stone Road opposite the Methodist Church from 9a.m. to 11am

January 19th, 2013  
March 23rd, 2013

**CHRISTMAS TREES**

**Thanks are extended** to the Ecclian Society for erecting the 62 Christmas Trees in the town and testing lights and brackets, Woods Christmas Tree Farm at Solihull for supplying and delivering the Trees, A.S. Electrical Services for installing the lights on the tree by the lych gate and Traction Equipment for loan of a cherry picker.

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Street lights, pot holes, standing water or highway matters -** contact the Highways Hotline 0300 1118000 or email:- [highways@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk)

To report problems associated with **grass cutting, play areas, fly tipping, street sweeping and name plates** contact - Street Scene - 01785 619401

Complaints regarding **dog fouling and stray dogs** should be directed to the Borough Council's Contact Centre on 01785 619000 or email:[ehadmin@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:ehadmin@staffordbc.gov.uk)

To report **illegal or inconsiderately parked vehicles** call Clear Streets 01785 619402 or email: [carparking@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:carparking@staffordbc.gov.uk)

**Recycling collection**  
01785 619402  
email: [info@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:info@staffordbc.gov.uk)

**CROSSING PATROL STAFFORD STREET**

The Parish Council has been advised that the crossing patrol on Stafford Street is due to be discontinued from the end of the November. Members are concerned that this crossing is dangerous and that some vehicles fail to stop. County Councillor Henry Butter has agreed to investigate this matter

Please ensure that your children 'Stop, Look and Listen' when crossing the road and are suitably accompanied when going to school or visiting the town.

**ECCLESHALL  
PARISH COUNCIL**



**Newsletter  
DECEMBER 2012**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

### TOWN WARD

Mr J. Allen  
'Wickets End', Church Grove,  
Eccleshall. Tel. 850456

Mrs E. Amos  
6, St. Chad's Road, Eccleshall.  
Tel. 851827

Mr P. Baskerville, 'Church Lodge',  
72, High Street, Eccleshall.  
Tel. 850764  
Email: philandwendybaskerville@btinternet.com

Mr G. Dale (Chairman).  
74, High Street. Eccleshall.  
Tel. 850124  
Email: gordon.gordondale@tiscali.co.uk

Mr P. Jones,  
28, The Burgage, Eccleshall.  
Tel. 851381  
Email: peterwjones@btinternet.com

Mr G. Garner  
9A, Newport Road, Eccleshall.  
Tel. 850110  
Email: g.garner360@btinternet.com

Mr M. Starkey  
24, Claremont Road, Eccleshall.  
Tel: 850502  
Email: mike.starkey@talktalk.net

Mrs L. von Elbing  
33, The Crescent, Eccleshall.  
Tel: 859026  
Email: lindsay.vonelbing@btinternet.com

### CROXTON WARD

Mr B. Delanchy, 5, Highfields,  
Croxtton. Tel. 07837 296472  
Email:  
bryan.delanchy@staffordshire.gov.uk

Mr D. Jacques  
Sugnal Hall, Sugnal.  
Tel: 851711  
Email: dlj@sugnal.co.uk

Mr B. Apps  
6, Fox Hollow, Eccleshall.  
Tel: 851127  
Email: bbapps@btinternet.com

### HORSLEY WARD

Mr P. Mullee  
Johnson Home Farm, Eccleshall  
Tel: 851500  
Email: paulmullee@btinternet.com

Mr D. Pimble (Vice-Chairman)  
Cobbler's Cottage,  
Kerry Lane, Eccleshall.  
Tel. 850116  
Email: davidpimble@tinyonline.co.uk

Mr L. Serjeant  
Birch Tree House, Castle Street,  
Eccleshall. Tel. 859439  
Email: lukeserjeant@hotmail.com

### SLINDON WARD

Mrs M. Dodkins  
11, Usulwall Close, Eccleshall.  
Tel: 850345  
Email: mdodkins@aol.com

### Borough Councillors

Mr F. A. Chapman  
17, Redhills, Eccleshall.  
Tel. 850838  
Email: frankachapman@btinternet.com

Mr P. Jones (details as opposite)

Mr J. Pert  
Bank Farm, Croxton  
Tel: 01630 620274  
Email: jeremy.pert@lineone.net

### County Councillor

Mr H. Butter, 'Longfield', Wetwood,  
Eccleshall.  
Tel. 01630 620280  
Email: henry.butter@staffordshire.gov.uk

### Clerk to the Council

Mrs C. Heelis, 42, Badgers Croft,  
Eccleshall.  
Tel. 850989  
Email: eccleshallpc@btinternet.com

### Traffic Management Committee

Several Parish Councillors met with Mr C. Mitchell, Community Highway Liaison Officer on October 16th, 2012 to highlight local issues. County Councillor Butter who is able to prioritise issues through the Divisional Highways Programme also attended the meeting.

**Parking, Stone Road:-** Mr Mitchell indicated that he had received a letter from a local resident and Mrs Heelis had also received letters and emails raising concerns about the situation. Mr Mitchell stated that although the arrangement on Stone Road is not ideal the Animal Health Business has been in situ for many years and appears to be carrying out a good trade, providing an invaluable service to the rural community. Any restrictions in the vicinity would move the problem to estates and further down Stone Road. Mr Mitchell indicated that the congestion serves to slow the traffic down and whilst it is a nuisance at certain times of the day, it is not a major problem providing drivers exercise care.

Councillors have put notices on vehicles parked on the pavement, and this appears to have improved the situation. The Joint Parking Committee has been requested to undertake a review of parking related traffic regulation orders on Stone Road in due course. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

**HGV's and Gist:-** Mr Mitchell indicated that vehicle monitoring will be undertaken shortly. This will help to gauge the traffic going to and from Raleigh Hall and quantify the volume of vehicles generally travelling on the A519. The specification of alternative routes would only move the problems to other areas. The Strategic Plan of the Highway Authority revolves around improving prosperity and is linked to infrastructure. It is necessary to

establish what action can be taken to mitigate the impact on local communities.

**'A' Boards** - The Parish Council has expressed concern at the increasing number of 'A' Boards in the town. Mr Mitchell indicated that the Borough Council has a Policy in place to manage and issue licences for 'A' Boards through Street Scene. Alternatively the Highways Authority is able to manage 'A' Boards as any other obstructions of the Highway and will target specific complaints on a safety basis.

However, the Authority prefers to work with the local shopkeepers to limit the number of boards and ensure that they are considerately placed. The Parish Council will write to offending businesses including a copy of a brochure 'A' Boards and Merchandising Displays on the Highways in Stafford Borough'. Members consider that the proliferation of 'A' Boards detract from their impact and reduce any tangible benefits.



*Elford Pool*

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

January 23rd, 2013  
Eccleshall Community Centre

February 20th, 2013  
Eccleshall Community Centre

March 20th, 2013  
Eccleshall Community Centre

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council is considering whether to pursue the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan to cover the town of Eccleshall and the immediate surrounding area.

The Localism Bill introduced significant new powers to give local people a real voice to shape development in their area through Neighbourhood Development Plans. A successful Neighbourhood Plan, together with the Borough Council's Local Plan which is currently being developed, would have statutory status and be able to address any planning related issues in an area. In addition to specifying locations for housing and other development; it could, for instance, tackle road improvements, footpath and cycle networks, specify design and density of housing and safeguard sites from development that are valued as open space.

The Borough Council's Local Plan is currently in the last stages of consultation and so some of its contents are already confirmed. The establishment of Eccleshall as a key village with potential for further development sustained by the existing local facilities and the expansion of Raleigh Hall by an additional 6 hectares are two of the items that will be included in the Local Plan.

Any Neighbourhood Plan cannot contradict any of the elements within the Local Plan and so, for example, these two elements must not be opposed by the Neighbourhood Plan. The process to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan is firstly, to agree the plan's boundaries with the Borough Council, secondly to prepare the plan itself, thirdly for the plan to be considered as satisfactory by an independent inspector and lastly, for the plan to be approved in a referendum. A 50% + majority is required to approve the plan which would then be adopted.

The development of a Neighbourhood Plan would require extensive community participation and public consultation. The Parish Council is keen to establish whether there is likely to be an local interest in the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, both with appropriate local organisations such as the Ecclians and the Historical Society and other interested local residents.

If you think you may be interested in knowing more, the Parish Council would be pleased if you would contact the Parish Clerk for further details. If sufficient interest is shown, the Parish Council may well consider preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **PUBLIC MEETING** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Stafford Borough Local Plan proposes to remove all Rural Development Boundaries. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is not produced to redefine boundaries, Planning Officers will prepare Sites and Allocations Boundaries.

**A PUBLIC MEETING will be held on January 9th, 2013 at Eccleshall Community Centre commencing at 7pm to discuss the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.**

If you are interested in contributing towards a Plan for our area to deal with the important issues that affect our lives and those of our families, both now and in the future, please come along and be involved in shaping the development and growth of our town.

## CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Get into the Christmas Spirit, come and join us on MONDAY December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for the very popular Parish Council's Carols around the Christmas Tree.

Wrap up warm, and come along for an old-fashioned Christmas evening singing popular carols under the stars.

Meet at the cross roads at 7p.m. where we will start the night off with two carols and then move to the Millennium Clock, John Pershall Court, eventually reaching the Trinity Church Lychgate, where hot punch will be supplied and served by members of the Ecclian Society.

Suitably refreshed and in good voice we will sing more carols, until we can sing no more.

The night is not yet finished, for a very warm welcome awaits you in the Church Parish Rooms, where you can thaw out with hot tea, coffee and mince pies.

Don't forget to bring a lantern or a torch and have an enjoyable time.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Stafford Borough Council is the local planning authority for this area. Legally the Borough does not have a statutory obligation to consult with the Parish Council but does so because it has a policy of consulting widely on planning applications made to it. The Parish Council is given the opportunity to make its opinions known and to bring to the attention of the Borough Council local issues of which officers may not be aware. It is the duty of the Parish Council generally to represent the views and concerns of all residents of the town and parish of Eccleshall, by drawing on the local knowledge of councillors to reflect the concerns and opinions of residents.

If you have a concern about an issue or a specific planning application, there are several steps you can take.

- Raise the matter with a Parish Councillor or the clerk. Your concerns will then be raised at the meeting when the application is discussed.
- You have the right to attend the planning meeting yourself and raise your concerns during the public participation session at the start of the meeting.
- Most importantly you must make your concerns with regard to a specific planning application known directly to the Borough Council, as it is this body that finally determines the application.
- If a planning application has significant implications in the local area parishioners are advised to submit individual objections to the Borough Council. A petition only counts as one objection, regardless of the number of signatures it contains.

Most applications are determined by officers of the council, who interpret the requirements of the Local Plan, but the Parish Council works closely with the Borough Councillors representing Eccleshall. They are able to "call in" applications for determination by the Development Control Sub-Committee when there is serious local concern.

## CIVIC SERVICE - OCTOBER 21ST, 2012



Parish Council Chairman Gordon Dale and his wife Libby welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford Borough Councillor Brian Cross M.B.E. the Mayor of Stone Mike Shaw and Mayoress Susan Shaw to the Civic Service at St Chad's Church, Slindon on October 21st, 2012.

*Photo:- Mayor of Stafford Borough, Mayor of Stone, Gordon Dale, Susan Shaw Mayoress of Stone and Mrs L. Dale*

The service was well attended by Borough and Parish Councillors together with members of the congregation and guests from the parish's various organisations. The music was provided by the St Chad's Music Ensemble led by Mary Scott and including her three sons. The ensemble regularly play at the church.

The lessons were read by Councillors Gordon Dale and Peter Jones and the service led by the Reverend James Graham. Thanks are extended to all those who contributed to the Service, especially the ladies who made and served very enjoyable refreshments and Mr and Mrs Smith for allowing the mayoral cars to park in their driveway.

The annual service moves around the churches of the parish allowing the communities in each area to attend the service in their own local church and in 2013 the service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Eccleshall.

## OFFLEY HAY VILLAGE HALL

The Management Committee is pleased to announce that funding has been raised for refurbishments from various sources including the Jubilee Fund. The refurbishments are now complete and new curtains and blinds are now in place together with a new patio. With the help of YoYo, the Eccleshall youth Drop In, the Hall has been completely redecorated. There is also a superb range cooker and two microwaves. Thanks are extended to everyone who supported the recent Pre Christmas Fayre, which raised over £400

As always, none of this would be possible without the help and support of the village hall committee.

The Hall is an ideal venue for birthday

parties, wedding receptions and children's parties. The hiring fee remains at £10 per hour.

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs M. Dodkins, Chairman, Offley Hay Village Hall Management Committee. Tel: 01785 850345 or Mob: 07718393195



## HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

A survey was distributed to all households in Eccleshall Parish during the summer to establish the housing needs that residents felt existed in Eccleshall. At a meeting of the Planning Committee held on September 5th, 2012, Mr J. Lancaster, Rural Housing Enabler, referred to a report produced following the survey. Mr Lancaster indicated that a good response rate of 24% had been achieved. A strong majority of the respondents, 71%, supported a small affordable housing scheme for local people. This support illustrates that a robust survey had been undertaken and would be important if the Parish Council decided to proceed.

The survey signified a housing need in the Parish of 36 homes for rent/shared ownership and affirmed that the population of the Parish tends to be older people as a result of escalating house prices up to 2008 and a decline in private rented properties. A large percentage of properties in Eccleshall are 3 or 4 bed roomed houses, many occupied by single elderly people. Mr Lancaster expressed surprise that although some building has taken place in Eccleshall, recent developments have not included a percentage of affordable homes.

Issues to consider included:-

- Young people with connections to the area who were living with family as they were unable to afford property, or moving out of the area.
- An ageing community
- Implications for the local school and loss of business for traders in the town.

Owing to a shortage of land and its high cost within the rural development boundary it is likely that any potential site will be a rural exception site on the

periphery of Eccleshall town. Only a very specific case would justify the provision of any affordable homes in the outlying settlements. Occupants of shared ownership properties are unable to own more than 80% of the dwelling, which cannot be sold outright and tenancies are restricted by Section 106 agreements.

At the Parish Council meeting held on October 17th, 2012 the Council resolved to request Mr Lancaster to conduct a survey and produce an impartial report identifying potential locations for affordable homes and make a recommendation to the Parish Council.

The process will be undertaken by Mr Lancaster on behalf of Stafford and Rural Homes and Housing Plus at no cost to the Parish Council.

Sites under consideration have to meet the following criteria:-

- Located outside the Rural Development boundary
- Have safe highways access
- Minimal impact on the landscape
- Not on a flood plain or site of archeological importance
- Have consideration for any impact on neighbouring properties.

Upon completion of the report, expected in mid December, a recommendation will be presented to the Parish Council to either approve or propose changes.

If a preferred site is agreed upon the next stage will be to consult the Borough Council in order to ensure that the proposed location is appropriate and finally an approach can be made to the landowner.

Prior to the submission of a planning application a sketch layout will be available for public consultation with appropriate consideration being afforded to any feedback from local residents.