

DOG FOULING

The Parish Council has received numerous complaints recently about the ever increasing problems with dog fouling on the pavements around Eccleshall. Excrement left on footpaths and playing fields can cover shoes and clothes and at worst can lead to blindness due to an infection called 'Toxocara canis'.

- If you have a garden encourage the dog to 'go' there. You can then bury the mess or alternatively clean it up and bin it.
- If you walk your dog always carry the means to clear up after your dog. A simple plastic bag will do the trick or obtain poop scoops from Eccleshall Library or Claremont Garage. Remember to take a bag or poop scoop like you'd remember a lead.
- Every time your dog fouls, 'bag it and bin it'. Take the poop scoop home and dispose of it there. Please do not decorate the hedges and trees with the bags!! Remember rain **does not** wash the problem away.
- Never let your dog out alone to 'go to the loo'.

**It is every dog owner's duty to clean up after their dog.
There are no excuses, fouling is unacceptable.**

It is illegal to leave your dog's poo lying in a public area. If the dog is in your care you must clean up any mess it makes. Being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having anything with which to clean up the mess, is not an excuse. Any person in charge of a dog who does not clean up the mess, will be issued with a £75 Fixed Penalty Notice or face prosecution with a maximum fine of £1,000.



If you have any information about individuals who fail to clean up after their pet or you wish to report areas that require cleaning -

VISIT - www.staffordbc.gov.uk/dogs
 CALL - 01785 619000
 EMAIL - dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk
 WRITE - Head of Environment
 Stafford Borough Council
 Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford ST16 23AQ

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL



CASTLE STREET REFURBISHMENT SCHEME



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2013

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Clerk to the Council

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Email: eccleshallpc@btinternet.com

Parish Council website:-

<http://eccleshallparishcouncil.org>

CROXTON WELL DRESSING 2013

Saturday, 6th July

Location: Boughey's Well, Main Road, Croxtton (B5026)

11.30 am: Festivities at the Well & in the Millennium Wood (opposite)

12.30 pm: Traditional Blessing of the Well and official opening

2 - 4pm: Concert of music and poetry in Croxtton Church

After last year's successful inaugural Well Dressing project, a report of which appeared in last September's edition of this Newsletter, plans are well underway for the second one, and it is hoped to attract as many visitors as possible on the well dressing day itself, **Saturday, 6th July**. The theme chosen for this year's main well dressing at Boughey's Well is **'The Countryside Code'** and there will be five other well dressings to see along the Wells Trail, including one made by the pupils of the Hugo Meynell School in Loggerheads.

Activities around Boughey's Well and in the Millennium Wood opposite will commence at **11.30 am**. The Tern Valley Tinkers will entertain with their folk music, and the Beggars' Oak Clog Dancers will be performing and no doubt inviting people to join in. The Eccleshall Scouts will be serving up tasty bacon baps, sausages and burgers in the Millennium Wood, where you will also be able to have a go at various country pursuits such as making fly-fishing bait and traditional woodcraft. Amongst other displays connected with the countryside, there will be one by the local Turner Hodgkiss Nature Reserve.

Refreshments will also be served in St Paul's Church Croxtton, where a concert of music and poetry can be enjoyed from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Performers will include John Myatt, Broughton Community Choir, and the Eccleshall Ladies Handbell Ringers, along with many other talented members of the community.

Although the project is led again by Broughton WI, this is seen as a **community project** and anybody who would like to help or join in beforehand or on the day would be most welcome – please contact Ros Langford on 01630 620545. No outside funding was applied for this year, but sponsorship by several local organisations and individuals has been gratefully received.

If you can't make 6th July, the well dressings will remain in place up to and including **Sunday, 14th July**.

Keep a look out for a display planned for the window in Eccleshall Library, when more will be revealed!

For more information on the well dressing process and regular progress updates, please visit the website: croxttonwelldressing.weebly.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)

The police and NHW have been highlighting the problem of dog fouling recently in an effort to encourage all dog owners to clear up their dogs mess. Sadly, there are a few irresponsible dog owners who give a bad name to all the rest. More notices have been posted around the town to inform about the rules and responsibilities on this subject and Stafford Borough Council will be monitoring, at intervals, particularly in the areas of The Eyeswell and the rear of the Church. Free poop bags are available in the library and we will continue to liaise with our local police in handing out free bags at regular intervals throughout the summer.

Criminal activity has remained low on our patch so far this year. However, the police are having a purge on uninsured drivers across the county using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras mounted above the motorways and fitted in unmarked police cars. The police are also continuing to target drug abuse in Stafford and the surrounding areas.

Finally, if you live in one of our No Uninvited Trader zones, then police advice is to call them if you continue to be hassled by cold callers who ignore the signs. In the meantime if you see any suspicious activity in and around Eccleshall please call the police on 101, or if you prefer to remain anonymous, phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and let the criminals know we are watching out for them. Stay safe.

John Baldry (NHW Town Co-ordinator)

REFUSE VEHICLE

The refuse vehicle will be parked on Stone Road opposite the Methodist Church from 9 - 11am on July 20th, 2013.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

At a meeting of the Planning Committee held on February 6th, 2013 the Parish Council accepted sites recommended by Housing Plus with the strongest potential to achieve affordable housing. These dwellings, some bungalows but mainly houses, will be exclusively reserved for people who live, have family ties or work in the Parish for the foreseeable future.

Ms Charlie Riley from Housing Plus reported to the Council Meeting on May 15th, 2013 that a feasibility study had been undertaken into potential sites for affordable homes, on and to the rear of the Burgage and Landowners had been approached. Draft sketches had been prepared to illustrate how the 28 homes could be accommodated on two of the sites, with a possibility of an additional 8 on a site to the rear of the bungalows along the Stone Road and to the west of the Burgage.

Councillors commented on the loss of parking spaces and Ms Riley indicated that new spaces will be provided in the scheme and that three of the homes, currently shown as being developed on the existing car park, may be better accommodated on the third site, in addition to the remaining eight. It was agreed to accept these proposals in principle and Housing Plus will continue to liaise with the landowners with a view to submitting Planning Applications as soon as possible following **public consultation. This will be held in June. Look out for posters and details in the press advertising the date and venue**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

June 19th, 2013 - Offley Hay Village Hall
July 17th, 2013 - Broughton Parish Rooms

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING APRIL 24TH, 2013

At the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 24th, 2013 PCSO Lutwyche explained the new policing strategy that was in operation and involved 16 officers locally. Six of the Officers are Local Neighbourhood Officers and Ten Local Police Officers. The local Officers check problems in the area on a daily basis and update the Citizen's Toolkit, making officers more aware of local offenders. The new way of working is linked with integrated offender management.

The Officers sign on and are briefed in Stafford and the Officers in Eccleshall are not released until the next shift's personnel have arrived.

Councillor David Pimble reported that the Government's Localism Bill and amendments to the Planning system would allow for a new tier of the planning process - Neighbourhood Planning. Please complete the questionnaire included in this newsletter to ensure that your views are taken into account.

Councillor Dale presented an overview of the Council's activities throughout the year.

It was noted that the precept would remain unchanged for a third year. The amount of concurrent allowance received from Stafford Borough Council would also remain unchanged and Council Tax Benefit was to be replaced by a local Council Tax Support Scheme. The scheme meant that funding from the Government to help eligible households with Council Tax Payment would be paid in the form of grants and the Borough Council had agreed to pass this onto Parishes resulting in a slight reduction in the amount of Council Tax collected locally.

Following a public meeting regarding proposals to install items of play equipment on land at Bishops Court, the proposals had been withdrawn to enable the Council to consider other options and land availability with a view to putting forward alternative proposals.

The Parish Council's Newsletter to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee had been a great success, with copies being sent all over the UK and some as far as America. Prizes had been presented to the pupils of Bishop Lonsdale School whose poems had been published in the newsletter.

A Housing Needs survey identified a need for 36 homes for rent / shared ownership in the Parish. Mr Lancaster, a Rural Housing Enabler, had identified potential locations for the homes and made recommendations to the Parish Council. A feasibility study into the availability of sites was being conducted, which entailed approaching landowners and liaising with Stafford Borough Council.

The Chairman referred to the refurbishment of Castle Street, which was a huge improvement to the conservation area and the approach to the town. There is a temporary guard rail on the corner outside The George and this will be replaced in due course by decorative, bespoke railings, depicting a coach and horses and the Parish Crest.

The Parish Council had presented a canvas photograph of Eccleshall to Mr Carruthers who had moved abroad, to thank him for 20 years of dedicated service as a First Responder in the community.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Councillors for their commitment and enthusiasm over the last twelve months.

ARCHIVES & HERITAGE ON THE ROAD - A Local & Family History Road Show
Methodist Church Rooms, Eccleshall - Saturday 13 July 2013 - 10.30am - 4.00pm.

Come and join Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Archive Service and the County Museum Service at our 7th Annual Roadshow. Admission is free and we will be offering a range of activities for young and old alike including:

***Displays relating to the history of Eccleshall** ***Family History Surgeries**
***Have a go at papermaking the traditional way** ***Books and maps for sale**
***Children's and Family Activities** ***Refreshments**
We look forward to seeing you there!

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Residents may recall that the last edition of the Newsletter gave details of the Parish Council's intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. The plan would be a document giving planning policies specific to the parish of Eccleshall and, if approved in a referendum, would have statutory status and must be adhered to by the planners when determining planning applications.

The Parish Council has subsequently applied for the area to be covered by the plan to be formally designated by Stafford Borough Council which is part of the statutory process. The area proposed is the whole of the Eccleshall Parish. There was a 6 week consultation period which commenced when letters were sent out to every household in the area. The consultation period ended on the 16th May and there were no substantial objections to the boundary.

With regard to the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, a steering group has been established comprising 5 Parish Councillors and 15 members of the general public. The members of the public comprise representatives of various community groups that have an interest in how Eccleshall develops and other members who expressed an interest following the public meeting which the Parish Council held in January.

The group has so far met three times; the first time to establish the group and outline a programme to develop the plan and the second and third time, to hear from Hannah Barter from Urban Vision, an organisation based in Stoke which has received Government funding to assist in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

Ms Barter discussed methods of consultation and getting the community involved and with her assistance a questionnaire has been produced. The questionnaire is the centrefold of this edition of the Newsletter and the Parish Council urge you to tear it out, spend a few minutes answering the questions and return the form to either the Parish Clerk or the box located in the library. The questionnaire can also be downloaded off the Parish Council website and returned online.

Public participation is the key to the successful preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council hopes for a large number of returns and an enthusiastic response to future consultation on the plan. Remember, the future development of Eccleshall will, to a large extent, be governed by the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and you can contribute to its preparation. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you require any further information.

SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - MARCH 31ST, 2013

	INCOME	EXPENSE
Precept	48700.00	
Concurrent Allowance	3733.00	
Bank Interest	31.63	
VAT reimbursements	1871.71	
Grants SBC Bloom & Christmas Trees	2975.00	
Rents	407.98	
Wayleaves	31.59	
SCC fingerposts and gates	440.00	
LMIS grants	750.00	
Donation from Eccleshall Guide	100.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	58600.91	

General Administration	10,978.61
Parks and Open Spaces	7455.95
Salaries & associated costs	26571.12
Projects	10480.00
Village Halls	6865.00
Section 137 payments	1180.00
Concurrent Allowance payments	3733.00
VAT	1954.60
TOTAL PAYMENTS	69218.28

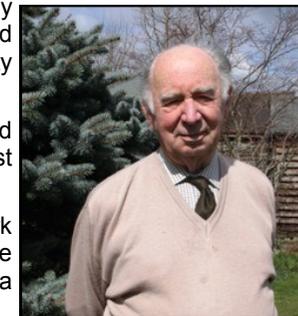
SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 1.4.12	55024.23
Add total receipts (as above)	58600.91
Less total payments (as above)	69218.28
Balance carried forward 31.3.13	44406.86

COUNTY COUNCILLOR HENRY BUTTER - At the Parish Council meeting held on April 17th, 2013 Henry Butter indicated that this would be the last meeting he would attend as a County Councillor and that he had enjoyed working with the Parish Council for many years. Henry Butter served our community for over 40 years through his positions on the Stone Rural Council, Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council. Henry worked closely with John Allen on various footpath projects and helped to support these and many groups in the community with funds from his County Member's Allowance.

He was a regular visitor to Parish Council meetings and his support and detailed reports were always most welcome.

Councillor Dale thanked Councillor Butter for the work he had done in the Parish over the years and the Council extended their very best wishes to him for a happy and healthy retirement.



14). Please provide your name and address

Name

Address

Email

Tel No

Please tick if you want to be kept informed of future stages of the Neighbourhood Plan

Any other comments

When you have completed this questionnaire, please return it

by post to - The Parish Clerk, 42 Badgers Croft, Eccleshall ST21 6DS

by email to - eccleshallpc@btinternet.com

Or, you can post it in the box in Eccleshall Library.

For further information please see the Parish Council's website where this questionnaire can be downloaded - www.eccleshallparishcouncil.org

To make sure your comments are taken into account, please return your completed questionnaire by June 30th, 2013.

THE FUTURE OF ECCLESHALL PARISH

ECCLESHALL PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

Eccleshall Parish Council, working in partnership with the Stafford Borough Council, is producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Eccleshall, which will set out where new development will go, what kind of development it will be, and what sort of social and leisure facilities are needed to make Eccleshall a better place in which to live and work.

The big difference between the Neighbourhood Plan and previous plans is that it will be a plan for the whole of the parish developed by the people of the parish. Inevitably this will concentrate on the town of Eccleshall, as this is designated as a Key Strategic Village, but will cover the entire parish area from Loggerheads to Little Bridgeford. To do this the Parish Council wants to hear from as wide a range of local people as possible - residents, businesses, shoppers, young people, older people, community groups, service providers, and other stakeholders.

Can you spend 5 minutes answering a few questions to make sure you have your say in the future of the town? This is the first stage in the process and there will be further opportunities to comment on the draft plan.

1). For each of the following list of things in Eccleshall please tick the box which you think best describes the current provision:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Inadequate
Shopping					
Housing					
Leisure					
Job Opportunities					

2). Which of the following local facilities do you use? Please tick as many as apply.

Shops Sports Restaurants Education

Social

3). Do you go outside of Eccleshall for some facilities?

Yes No

If your answer is yes, please say which facilities and where you go for them

4). What facilities or amenities are missing or inadequate in Eccleshall?

5). Which of the following applies to you (tick more than one if applicable):

I live in Eccleshall I work in Eccleshall
I use Eccleshall's leisure facilities I shop in Eccleshall
I am active in a local community group

6). In your opinion, how strong is the sense of community in Eccleshall?

Very strong Quite strong Average
Not very strong Weak

7). How do you rate the general quality of the environment in Eccleshall?

8). Is there anything you think is particularly good or bad about the environment in Eccleshall?

9). What do you think are the three best things about Eccleshall?

1.

2.

3.

10). How do you get about in Eccleshall? Do you travel mainly

By car By bus On foot By motor bike
By bicycle

11). What do you think of the job opportunities in Eccleshall? Are they

Excellent Good Average Poor
Very Poor

12). If you could change one thing about Eccleshall what would it be?

13). What do you think should be the main priority of the Neighbourhood Plan?