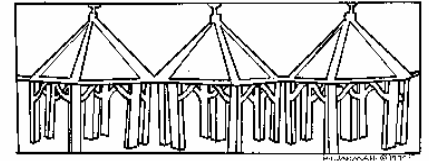


# THE BROMLEY

## BULLETIN.....



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### *Abbots Bromley Parish Council Newsletter May 2004 No 24*

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#### **Annual Report 2004**

Those present at the Annual Parish Assembly on 12th May heard a range of reports from organisations active in the village before enjoying an informal chat over some light refreshments. Full notes from the assembly are available on the village web pages at [www.abbotsbromley.com/pc/meetings.php](http://www.abbotsbromley.com/pc/meetings.php) and a copy of the summary financial report accompanies this edition of the Bulletin.

Philip Charles (Chairman of the Parish Council) in making his annual report to the Assembly noted that in the past year, Councillors Ferguson and Wilson had decided not to seek re-election and had been replaced by Councillors Eatough and Elkington. Some key points from the previous 12 months he mentioned (and which are not dealt with elsewhere in this Bulletin) included:

- During the year the Council received 71 sets of plans for review, ranging from tree pruning to major developments such as that proposed for new houses on the land at Ivy House.
- A year ago, a proposal for a wind farm in Bagot's Park was stimulating intense debate – not always of a constructive nature but reflecting the high levels of emotion that some felt about the idea. So far, no planning application has been submitted and, with the increasing emphasis on off-shore wind farming, it seems less likely that a formal application will be submitted.
- Early in 2003 the Council became aware of the opportunity to establish a Community First Responder team. The team would provide an early response to medical emergencies in the few minutes that it takes an ambulance to reach the parish. A similar scheme in the Weaver Ward has been very successful. The Council decided to promote the idea and Councillors Esling and McLoughlin have worked with the Staffordshire Ambulance Service to move this forward. The Council has already provided some financial support and will make a further grant in the coming year.
- The Council were involved in the initiation of the Vital Villages project and are continuing to support this important project.
- We have entered the Best Kept Village competition and a great deal of effort has been put in by Cllr Elkington on a number of matters - some of which have come to fruition and others that are still in progress.
- As part of their programme of changes designed to help and strengthen rural communities, the government has introduced the designation of "Quality Council". The Council has decided to apply for quality status and the Clerk is undergoing additional training to facilitate this. The Council believes it already meets most of the criteria and those needing some change will be of benefit to the community.
- As we look to the future, the Council has increased the budget for the coming year by 2.2%. Although just keeping pace with inflation, this small increase will allow further support for Community First Responders and Vital Villages.

#### **Parish Council Surgeries in Church House**

The Parish Council announced at the Annual Assembly that, starting from 29th May, a series of Parish Council surgeries will be held monthly on a Saturday morning in Church House.

These will enable those who wish to informally discuss issues about the parish to do so in an informal setting—as an alternative to coming and formally addressing a Parish Council meeting. Each session will last one hour from 9:00 to 10:00 on the following Saturday mornings: 29th May, 26th June and 31st July. The practice of holding a public session at the start of each Council meeting will continue unchanged.

## Community Speed Watch—You Could Help!

In the last Bulletin we have reported the steps being taken by the Parish Council to address the many concerns expressed by residents about the speed of vehicles through the village. The traffic survey carried out by Staffordshire County Council Highways has now reported back and shows that the problem is not as severe as some villagers may have assumed. The full results of the traffic survey are available for viewing on the village web pages at [www.abbotsbromley.com/notices/notice032.htm](http://www.abbotsbromley.com/notices/notice032.htm). Although the Highways recognise our issues, compared to problems elsewhere in the county, their view is that they do not merit immediate action.

However, we do have the opportunity to participate in the Staffordshire pilot of a new partnership with the police through "Community Speed Watch". This will be modelled on schemes that have already been successfully adopted in other counties. They use local volunteers to monitor vehicle speeds and log details of those exceeding the limit for follow up by the police. Those willing to devote a hour or two each month to help will be given the necessary training and equipment. If you would be willing to assist please contact Clive Cook (840928) or Linda Fox (840315).

### Abbots Bromley Community Transport Scheme

The chief objective of our voluntary transport scheme is to provide a service for Abbots Bromley residents, notably the elderly and disabled who cannot use conventional passenger transport services. Voluntary transport is especially used for:-

1. Outpatients' or visitors' journeys to hospital or local health centres.
2. Personal business trips or to meet special shopping needs.
3. Day centre visits.
4. Meeting bus and rail connections for holiday arrangements.

The transport scheme is grant aided and a passenger fare table is set by Staffordshire County Council. In Abbots Bromley we have a team of ten volunteer drivers, whose operations are co-ordinated by Len Ferguson and Clive Cook. This year, drivers have responded to 32 calls in addition to an ongoing monthly arrangement with Staffs Association for the Welfare of the Blind for day care transport to Uttoxeter.

Ideally 48 hours advance notice is required and as all drivers are volunteers, cars are not available at weekends, nor on week days outside the hours of 8:45 to 18:00. Drivers are not insured to operate wheelchairs nor to provide care assistance to passengers in meeting their appointments. Obviously an emergency would be treated sympathetically. For further detailed information, please contact Len Ferguson (840538).

### Abbots Bromley Postal Address

The Royal Mail has now confirmed that "Abbots Bromley" will be included in the Postal Address File addresses for most postcodes in the parish. As organisations update their records from the PAF we will see the new addresses come into use. Our thanks to Mrs Enid Ferguson for driving through this change.

### Tell Clarence

Problems with highways or street lighting? Call 0800 232323 and give details of the problem including the reference number on the lamppost if a lighting issue.

### Village Web Pages

The village web pages have recently been re-designed and additional information is regularly added. A *notices* section provides up to date details of forthcoming events and other matters that may be of interest to residents. The *Parish Council* publishes all agendas, minutes and a weekly list of plans received and you will also find here the draft *Vital Villages* plan and associated survey results.

### Poster Competition

Thank you to all the children who sent in some magnificent posters for the Best Kept Village competition. Congratulations to the winners Henrietta Macer and Maddie Towell and also to the runners-up Alexander Chapman and Ellie Macer. All the posters will be displayed in the village throughout May until the end of July to remind us all to keep Abbots Bromley tidy.

### Dates for your diary

Village Show on Saturday **12th June** at the Village Hall.

The next Bulky Waste collection will also be on the **12th June** in the Crown car park from 10:30 to 14:00.

Celebrations for the 300th meeting of "The Morris Ring" will be taking place in Abbots Bromley on Sunday **18th July** with a procession through the village at 10:00. Followed by massed dancing on the Crown Inn and Goats Head forecourts from 12:00 to 13:00.

*Published by Abbots Bromley Parish Council. Newsletter Editor Kate McLoughlin (01283840409). Grateful thanks to the P.C.C. for the use of the St Nicholas Church Printer.*