



Annual Report



This report has been compiled by Abbots Bromley Parish Council using input from a number of different sources. Any views expressed are those of the original authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the Parish Council

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8. Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2011

Introduction

The annual report

The purpose of this annual report is to make freely available information about the work of the parish council and other community organisations. The council hopes that you will find the information useful and understandable.

This report aims to bring together in one place key details about the activities of the parish council in a manner recommended as good practice by the government for Quality Councils.

Summary to all homes

A summary of this annual report from the parish council is to be included in the July 2012 ***Bromley Bulletin*** distributed to all households in the parish.

Also available on-line

An electronic copy of this report is available on the village website where you can view it or print your own copy – www.abbotsbromley.com.

Council Members and Officer – 2011/12

Council Members

Roger Jarman	840678	Chairman
Ray Bell	841090	Vice Chairman
Debbie Burrows	840058	
Philip Charles	840251	
Clive Cook	840928	
Karen Johns	840381	
Roger Mills	840703	
Michelle Moore	840280	
Eric Roy	840153	

Officer:-

Mrs Sarah Meads 01283 840891
Clerk to the Parish Council
Marsh Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley, Staffs, WS15 3EJ
Email: parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Working Groups

The chairman and vice chairman are entitled to serve ex officio, on all groups

Working Group	Member(s)
Competitions	Cllr Mills
Finance	Cllrs Mrs Burrows; Mrs M Moore; E Roy
Newsletter	Cllr Jarman (Editor) Cllr Mrs Johns (Editor) Cllr P Charles (Distribution)
Planning	All Councillors
Recreation	Cllrs Charles, Mrs Burrows and Mrs Johns
Traffic & Parking	Cllrs Charles, Mrs Johns, Mills and Cook
Village Property	Cllrs Charles, Mrs Johns, Mills and Cook

Representatives

Almhouses	Chairman – ex officio
Crime & Social Issues	Cllrs Charles and Mrs Johns
Fairtrade	Cllr Charles
Finance Officer	Cllr Mrs Burrows
Richard Clarke First School	Cllr Mrs Burrows
Grants	Cllrs Mrs Burrows and Mrs Johns
School Governor	None
United Charities	Cllrs Charles and Cook
Village Hall	Cllr Mrs Johns

Reports to the Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday, 16th May 2012 7.00 pm At Church House, Abbots Bromley

Introduction: Again this year for the Parish Assembly the various verbal reports are replaced with written statements. This document contains the reports submitted in advance of the assembly, and question on the contents may be asked during the open forum. Additional reports will be added after the meeting.

Contents:

Parish Council Report	Cllr Roger Jarman
Parish Council Finance	Sarah Meads
Village Hall Report	Simon Wilson
Community First Responders	Colin Palmer
Community Transport	David Thompson
Richard Clarke First School	John Hough
Youth Initiative	Phil Ryan
Staffordshire County Councillor's Report	Cllr Philip Atkins
East Staffordshire Borough Councillor's Report	Cllr Greg Hall
Parish Council Financial Statement	To be added
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2011	

Omissions:	Report from Cllr G Hall
Issue Details:	Version 1 – 11th May 2012
Changes:	None

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Planning – There have been no new substantive or controversial applications this year, but issues from existing major applications have rumbled on.

Dolphin Cottage/Studiocraft. This application was refused by ESBC on 19th October 2010. The applicant appealed against this decision, and was subsequently allowed on following a hearing on the 19th July 2011. This is for 5 (not 6) new dwellings on land to the rear of Dolphin Cottage. Obviously the views and local knowledge of both your Parish Council and Borough Councillor were considered to be irrelevant.

Ivy House, High Street. Planning permission has now been granted to convert Ivy House into 3 three terraced dwellings, plus 3 detached properties and a detached garage at the rear of the property. Obviously in preparation for their development, and with no great sympathy to the environment of Abbots Bromley, Walton Homes have erected their ubiquitous bright orange boards. I am not sure which looks worse, a semi-derelict Ivy House or these hideous boards.

Other Matters. We have seen plans for the substantial development of Mickledale Cottage. For reasons that we do not understand this “Permitted Development” apparently does not need planning approval. We have had an explanation from ESBC, but I, for one, still do not understand how the developers of Mickledale can avoid this basic process.

The permission for a proposed holiday camp on the Blithfield side of the reservoir has been rejected.

As reported separately this evening plans have been approved for a new combined cricket and football site just outside the village on the Lichfield Road.

Wind Farm – This has not totally gone away. Following the rejection of a full scale Wind Farm, a preliminary application was seen in September for 2 alternative sites on Bagots Park for 1 turbine. The applicant hoped that they would not have to submit similar noise and environmental surveys for this turbine, as they did for the previous application. They have been advised by ESBC that the rules are the same for this application. We have heard no more since then.

Best Kept Village – We are proud to report that we have won the Best Kept Village Award for East Staffordshire District (Large Village Category) again in 2011. Yoxall were second (again), and Branston third. As usual a big thank you to Roger Mills for co-ordinating all the hard work, and to the schools in the village for producing a wonderful array of posters. Let us hope that we can retain it for an unprecedented 3rd time in 2012.

Bromley Bulletin – This year we published in August, December, and March.

Christmas Tree – Our thanks to the Brandrick family for once again donating an excellent tree. Our own tree on the Green is getting bigger, but it will probably be a couple of years yet before it can ‘fly solo’.

Parish Council Surgeries. As last year, these bi-monthly surgeries have continued. These are now combined with the liaison with the local Police. Although the public attendance is not great, we hope that those that have needed to discuss a problem have found them useful.

Membership of the Council. We now have three new members of the Council, - Clive Cook, Mrs Michelle Moore, and Eric Roy.

Traffic, Parking, and Highways –

Traffic. You will all have seen the “20 is Plenty” signs in Bagot Street and High Street. These have been requested for some time because of the volume of school traffic in the centre of the village, both with pupils from Richard Clark and the Uttoxeter school buses. It was obviously pointless to put the signs in School House Lane, but we hope they might make passing motorists aware of the potential risk to young people. We had hoped to fully include Abbots Bromley School for Girls, but the County Council will only put them up to include state educated pupils. Unfortunately, because of a shortage, the speed indicator signs will have to move on to another location at the end of the summer term – we can ask for them to be returned at some date in the future. The yellow warning signs will remain.

Parking. We have requested “double yellows” at the junctions of Goose Lane and Hall Hill Lane, and on the Goat corner. No date for installation has been given. It is unfortunate that a few motorists do not have either the common sense or consideration to park safely, thus prompting this action.

Highways. It is hoped that, after much chasing, long outstanding pothole and pavement repairs will be undertaken this summer, but do not hold your breath!

Youth Project. – As reported last year, the Youth Club continues to be a great success. Well done to all involved.

Strategic Villages. In their Core Strategy ESBC have identified five strategic villages for development – Barton under Needwood, Rolleston, Rocester, Tutbury, and Abbots Bromley. We believe that we do not fit into this category because we do not fulfil the basic requirements of a Strategic Village. Although we do have a doctor’s surgery, emergency services and a primary school, we do not meet the rest of the criteria, having limited shopping facilities, no Post Office, and a very limited bus service.

The next grade down is a Local Service Village, which makes sense for the facilities that we have. We have requested that move down the hierarchy to this later category.

**Cllr Roger Jarman
Parish Council Chairman**

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The parish council has its own Financial Regulations, which set down the rules by which the finances of the council are managed. The council employs an independent internal auditor who reviews the financial records. At the end of the year an audit return is completed and submitted to the Audit Commission for the purposes of external audit.

The council’s financial regulations can be viewed on the website or via arrangements with the clerk.

The unapproved financial statements for the council for the year to 31st March, 2012 will be tabled at the Parish Assembly and the final accounts for the year added after the parish council meeting on 23rd May 2012.

**Sarah Meads
Parish Clerk**

ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

The village hall has enjoyed 12 months of consistent use with a good mix of private hiring's and regular weekly groups and classes using the hall both daytime and evenings.

During last year the original architect came and viewed the hall and was pleased with the overall condition of the building and its maintenance. Ongoing work is continuing with the painting of the bar area foyer and main hall starting this week. The hall has also now been formally registered with the Land Registry.

We have embarked on a new venture of providing a bar service for hirer's of the hall and just taken delivery of embroidered bar staff shirt's. Work has been completed to create extra storage space upstairs and after several months this is now fully accessible having finally managed to have the lift repaired and back in use. Sadly the players have taken the decision to disband so the committee are looking into the possibility of hosting an outside theatre group or music event.

I would like to thank everyone who has used the hall in the last 12 months and welcome anyone who has not yet used it to come and have a look at your local village hall.

Simon Wilson
Chairman of the Management Committee

Abbots Bromley Community First Responders

The group continued to provide almost continuous coverage throughout the period.

Total numbers of responses now exceed 2550 since the group was established in 2005.

Total numbers of active responders now stands at 6.

Two prospective new members will begin training in the next few months. Anyone interested in becoming a CFR and who lives within Abbots Bromley, can learn more by approaching group members or the group coordinator for outline details.

We are particularly interested in people who can give cover during normal weekday working hours.

Thank you for those who have supported the group

Colin Palmer
Co-ordinator

Abbots Bromley Community Transport

Last year the community transport clocked up a mileage of 2,633 miles, we still have 4 drivers.

Last year the Staffordshire County Council gave us a grant of £489.00 and this year the grant has been frozen. Out of this I have to pay the insurance which has now gone up to £223.87 and I have to pay the driver what they have earned.

The Queens Hospital, Lichfield Station, Rugeley, the Doctor's Surgery and nd Morrison's are still the most used places.

The scheme is still working very well.

David P Thompson
Co-ordinator, Abbots Bromley Community Transport

Richard Clarke First School Report

Here is a brief summary of some key elements of the past 12 months.

Financial: The budget for 2012/2013 has yet to be submitted but it will be in excess of £400,000. It is not expected to be more demanding than the previous budget although the radical cuts in Local Authority funding will present the usual challenges. We are still in the fortunate position of being able to offer single-year classes, been able to retain our existing complement of staff and remarkably, recruit a new teaching assistant for Reception Class. Building works are not anticipated to be major problem this year and general maintenance money has been allocated for any minor works.

Key points from this year's guidance include:-

- Schools will be required to negotiate 'service-level agreements' with 'providers', which could include the LA, to acquire any services required.
- The budget for 2012-13 is a settlement for one year only. However, a new funding formula, proposed by the Government, could be implemented from April 2013.
- The pupil premium, for pupils on free school meals or who have parents in the forces, has been increased from April 2012. Adjustments to funding for looked-after children are to be made throughout the year.
- By September 2012 we will need to publish how we have spent the pupil premium in 2011-12, its impact and how we intend to spend next year's pupil premium...

RCFS spending is continually monitored by the management team and governors. As is to be expected, teaching staff form our highest cost, followed by support staff. We have also tried to use TAs in a flexible fashion, allocating them to areas where they will be most effective in providing best value for the school.

Yet again, the amazing fundraising of our PTFA (e.g. Big Breakfast, discos, Christmas Fayre) has had a major impact on our ability to purchase additional resources to enhance both the curriculum and the learning environment. I should also mention the Endowment Fund, courtesy of Richard Clarke, which we are obliged, and delighted, to use only for the benefit of the children at the school.

Number of Pupils: The number of pupils on our roll varies widely from year to year, and this directly determines our funding. In 1998 our number on roll was 145; we expect to finish this year with 101 pupils on the roll. This was a worrying situation in late 2011 when only 10 new children had enrolled for next year. Fortunately in the past few months we have had another 14 new children added to next year's roll. This will give us 109 on roll for next year; not a huge number but so much better than expected. However, currently we are expecting 30 new pupils in September 2013.

We still take a significant minority of our children from outside our catchment area and this enables us to maintain our ideal of one year group per class. We broadcast the excellence of RCFS (e.g. OfSTED reports) at open days and by targeted notices around the area, but our website (www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) is probably the most effective medium. We also encourage the local community to seize every opportunity to inform their friends and family, in other villages of course, what a great First School we have in Abbots Bromley.

Staffing: Unfortunately a key member of staff died after a long-term absence with a serious illness. We have retained the service of the excellent teacher who covered the absence until the end of this academic year. We have also recruited a newly qualified, male teacher with a passion for teaching, and an enthusiasm for maths in particular, to teach Year 1. It is an exciting prospect.

Premises: We organised a full replacement of fire and evacuation alarms whilst the funding was still available. The perennial problems associated with leaky flat roofs have been addressed but, despite the 'drought', have recently reappeared.

The re-location of Tom Thumb Nursery on to the school site was completed and it is now fully operational. The inevitable problems in the construction phase were resolved with very little bloodshed and the perceived problems of site-sharing proved to be quite groundless. Although they are completely independent establishments, ways are being found to exploit the proximity of RCFS and TT to the benefit of the children.

The Quiet Garden has been completely redesigned by Mrs Sara Brown, with help from the School Council, and has been rebuilt with help from children and parents. It was funded from our Endowment Fund, PTFA activities and individual donations.

The only black spot in an otherwise (relatively) peaceful year was the theft of lead from the roof above the school entrance. With the knowledge that lead thieves quiet often revisit the scene of their crime to finish the job, all lead was removed and replaced with a less marketable material. Our insurance covered the bill, less a small excess.

School Performance: We knew that OfSTED had given us a stay of execution until September 2011 but after that time we were once again vulnerable. We also knew that OfSTED had made their inspection schedule significantly more demanding and planned to implement it from January 2012. We reached the February half-term without any OfSTED contact but on the first day back at school we were given the usual two-day notice of an inspection. This focussed our minds wonderfully and the staff, parents, governors and particularly the children rose magnificently to the occasion. The Inspection Report (see the RCFS web-site) provides the evidence.

RCFS was rated Good (with some Outstanding characteristics) in the categories of Achievement of Pupils, Quality of Teaching and Leadership & Management. In the category of Behaviour and Safety of Pupils we were rated as Outstanding. This gave RCFS an Overall Effectiveness of Good (with some Outstanding features). Selected comments include:-

- The pupils are confident and enthusiastic learners and their behaviour is outstanding
- There is a good focus on achievement alongside the school's caring approach
- Teaching is good overall and frequently outstanding in Key Stage 2
- Pupils show exceptional courtesy and politeness to visitors and each other
- The school is led and managed well; and parents and carers are overwhelmingly supportive of the school

What do we need to do to improve further?

- Increase the proportion of high quality teaching in Key Stage 1, particularly in Mathematics by
 - Sharing current good and outstanding practice regarding pacing of pupils' progress
 - Providing opportunities for development of mathematical skills in subjects other than maths
 - Ensuring that more-able pupils are fully challenged in every lesson
- Ensure that all pupils are given sufficient time to respond to the good advice they are given on how to improve

We fully agree with and support the inspector's recommendations which matched pretty well on to our existing development priorities. We are entirely happy with our Good Rating but wish it was more widely known that it would have secured an Outstanding Rating under last year's inspection schedule. Still, it gives us a target to aim for.

School Self-Review: Parents' Questionnaire: Because we were pre-empted by OfSTED we did not circulate our usual spring-time questionnaires to parents, children and staff. However, the results of the OfSTED survey of parents, children and staff were reported as "overwhelmingly supportive of the school" in all categories. OfSTED have not released any further details but we will rerun our own surveys when things have settled down.

Other matters: The continuing funding from the Royal Society allows us to maintain and develop our relationship with Ruth and Ian Froggatt which provides environmental projects for all year groups, centred on the Goat Lodge Nature Reserve.

The Creative Partnership grant enabled us to fund an external 'artist' to work with the school on a whole-school project. Kate Slater, a local writer and illustrator, was our creative partner and worked with the children to produce and publish the real history of the Horn Dance – or Fawn Dance as it should be known. This was an amazing and exciting experience for all concerned. Copies are still available from the school. We now have to decide what to do if we are successful in this year's bid for a Creative Partnership grant.

We have gained, or regained, several kite marks, awards and accreditations during 2011. These include Dyslexia Friendly Full Status, the International School Award, Sing-up Gold, and National Healthy School Status. These are not achieved without a great deal of effort from children and staff but add greatly to the learning experiences of the children and the professional development of the staff.

Summary: RCFS has continued to provide a safe, high-quality learning experience for all of its pupils and this was duly recognised and reported by the OfSTED inspector. We still have the challenges posed by stringent budgets but with the competences of the existing management team and the critical friendship of the governors we are confident that we will prevail.

The Tom Thumb Nursery and RCFS operate seamlessly on our school site and both are working to maximise the benefits for both sets of pupils.

Staffordshire schools are facing severe funding difficulties whilst having to cope with a major reorganisation of LA support. We have to find ways of collaborating with other schools in our cluster to improve the learning experience and, of course, to reduce costs. Our OfSTED result gives us further reassurance that we really are an excellent, well-run and resilient school and will not become a casualty of the educational change which is currently being enacted.

John Hough
Chair of Governors, Richard Clarke First School

Youth Initiative

The Young People

We have 68 members all between 11 and 17 years of age. The majority are between 11 and 15 years of age and is split half and half between boys and girls.

We have a regular attendance of between 38 and 51 young people with 55 at our Christmas Disco on the 20th December.

There are currently six older young people signed up as young volunteers, they are at various stages of a training package organised and run by Staffordshire Young People's Service.

Eight young people are working their way through Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training programme, again organised and run by Staffordshire Young People's Service.

We encourage the young people to take responsibility for their club and wherever possible we empower them - our tuck shop is run entirely by the young people and is self funded.

Funding

We have received £3,154.43 from various sources during the year

Highlights include

- £1,000 kindly granted by ABPC in October 2011
- £671 (£402) from our 50p per week subs
- £419.43 (£110) raised by the young people on Horn Dance day
- £400 (£200) matched funding from National Grid – Our thanks to Steve Coxon
- £304 from Abbots Bromley Show Committee
- £160 Personal donation from Jim Harlow
- £150 (£150) from Abbots Bromley Cricket Club

Figures in brackets are for previous year

We have also received a grant of £385 from East Staffs BC to purchase a Football table
Our thanks to Cllr Greg Hall and we have been successful in obtaining £895 from the Youth Bank to go Go Karting in Stoke - Happy Days

Locally Planned Events

During the year we have worked with Staffordshire Young People's Service to:-

Organise additional Youth Club meetings on Wednesday afternoons during the summer holidays and Easter Holiday.

Assisted the British legion with their fund raising event at the Coach and Horses.

Organised one off events like Go Karting and 2 discos and purchased addition equipment

Wish list

The 5 a side pitch has been extremely well used since it was opened in April 2010 - it would be great if we could continue to extend the artificial turf in both goal areas during the coming year.

Summary

Whatever we are doing the young people seem to be happy with our efforts.

Our volunteers of which we have nine (eight last year) are wonderful but it is the combined efforts of Staffordshire Young People's Service, led locally by Gemma Lanchester, our Senior Youth Worker **and** our Volunteers that gives us cohesion.

Staffordshire Young People's Service have now assigned 3 youth workers to Abbots Bromley Youth Club

Our aim has always been to keep our funds over the magic £2,000 - it costs us circa. £2,000 per annum for the Village Hall - we secured a 20% reduction in Village Hall costs in September 2011 and during the summer we try to conduct most of our activities outdoors.

We currently have £1,175 (April 2012) in the bank with £1k of granted monies expected during 2011/12 from ABPC

We would as always appreciate any monies from any source

Finally

We are always looking for volunteers

Volunteering need only be for as little as 2 ½ hours per month (1 evening a month)

Anybody interested should phone me on 07787536381 for more details

P Ryan, AB 4 Youth

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UTTOXETER RURAL DIVISION - REPORT

The many significant changes at Staffordshire County Council have continued over the past year and have put us in a better place than many other local authorities.

The economic climate in the past year has continued to be a difficult but Staffordshire has outperformed the rest of the country in attracting inward investment while backing the Coalition Government's prime focus of reducing the National Debt after inheriting the dire economic circumstance from the worst recession for 30 years. The county council has continued to focus on the economy, helping business and families. Families in gainful employment tend to enjoy better health and suffer less from crime making for a happier life.

- **Transport** – we have extended the concessionary free bus travel package to 24/7 for older people and the disabled. In April 2011 we introduced an award winning discounted travel scheme for young people who for just £1 per journey can travel around the county.
- **Libraries** –we have kept all libraries open and are innovating by transforming all of 43 libraries into community resource centres which will encourage more people to use them.
- **'Telecare'**— this is a new service to more than 1,000 residents saving the NHS an estimated £3,000 per user, as well as reducing the demand on our adult social care services.
- **Children's services**—our Families First project will transform services to ensure an integrated approach and will make substantial savings while protecting front line services.
- **Efficient waste management**— W2R is under construction and will deliver major savings to the tax payer over the next decade, up to £250 million. Veolia is to operate the new Waste to Energy Plant at Four Ashes. This project is the largest ever undertaken by the council at £850m+ and will save its cost many times over its 25 year lifetime from avoiding paying Landfill Tax and from energy generation.
- **Celebrating Volunteering** in Staffordshire by recognising those who go the extra mile. We have built a genuine and comprehensive partnership with the voluntary sector to position volunteering as an essential part of a successful community, which is still rare nationally.
- **Winter highway maintenance** —we routinely salt over 43 per cent of the county road network compared to 35 per cent nationally.
- **Staffordshire highways network** — In addition to the £30 million already committed an extra £20 million will be invested in road reconstruction. £50m extra over 5 years.
- **Road safety** —we are one of the first councils in the country to introduce permanent part time 20mph zones at schools on busy A and B roads, using a special exemption from Government to protect children at peak school times.
- **Staffordshire Business Support Fund**—a £2m loans fund for small businesses has helped 55 small businesses, save 96 jobs and employ 101 more people across the county.
- **Voluntary sector**—Adult social care is the service area where we make our major contribution around £18million per year. We have increased overall funding, targeting in

particular smaller community support groups through our innovative Community Wellbeing Fund.

- **County farms**—we are not disposing of our farm estates to maximise short term receipts. Our estates business generates over £1 million a year of profit to support the council's services.
- **Announcing in November we would freeze Council Tax for 2012/13 and 2013/14 as well.** Staffordshire County Council has the 3rd lowest council tax in the country and performs in the top quartile. 2013/14 will have no increase in the county council's 75% part of the council tax bill. 3 years in a row.
- **Staffordshire Ring and Respond** for Respite Care
- **Freezing the rents** of over 200 business who are tenants of the county council's enterprise centres
- **Expanding SCC's apprenticeship scheme** to help over 250 young people into work and support other organisations who wish to take on apprentices.
- We have developed **Extra Care facilities** in partnership with our Housing Associations which will enable people to live independently with proper support in Burton, Leek, Stafford, and many other places are planned.

We do not:

- Run or have a say about the bus services in the County, they are commercial operations licensed by a Government Commissioner, unless we want to subsidise a route normally in rural areas - 80% are commercial.
- have any influence over the recent Coalition cuts to the Bus Operators which knocks on to the service cancellations
- Have any influence on rising fuel costs in the world.

However we are:

- Stimulating bus use by the 24/7 concessionary card and the Young Peoples card.
- Trying on a case by case basis to keep a basic service going on threatened routes whilst we look for more permanent solutions.

Green light for biggest integration of health and social care in the UK

Others say it can't be done but the new partnership between Staffordshire County Council and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Partnership Trust was given the green light in January.

It aims to deliver easier to understand and efficiently delivered health and social care. By removing duplication, streamlining the delivery of integrated care and reducing the inefficiencies which lead to the unnecessary demand on care services, the savings could be in the order of £30 million every year in costs. This is about improving the experience of citizens while making best use of tax payers' money.

The decision, which will be formally confirmed by the Department of Health shortly, sees nearly 1000 social care staff and a budget of £153 million transfer from Staffordshire County Council to the new Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust, creating the largest integrated health and social care organisation in the UK.

When the Partnership Trust is fully integrated in April 2012, it will be responsible for all adult social and community healthcare within Staffordshire and all community healthcare in Stoke-on-Trent, delivering everything from physiotherapy to day opportunities.

Skills and Education

The County Council carried a notice of motion at its meeting in December to invite all the universities, colleges, schools, academies, businesses and interested parties from across Staffordshire to come together across the county to act to ensure our children and young people get the best start in life and receive a good education. We want children and young people to make a positive contribution to their communities by good student behaviour and discipline by continuing to improve the quality of teaching, by the fairer use of resources, by promoting proper accountability and connection with the wider community and by freeing up and giving more flexibility to professionals to do their jobs.

Police and Crime Commissioners

In Staffordshire, we are preparing for the election of the first Police and Crime Commissioners, as set out in 'Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People' (Home Office, July 2010).

A transition board has been set up to sort out all the legal issues and ensure a smooth handover from the Police Authority to the Police and Crime Commissioner. Staffordshire is also looking to hold a workshop early in 2012 (with a facilitator from the Local Government Association) to plan our preparations and discuss the operational impact.

2012 is going to be a busy year with a few highlights:

National Memorial Arboretum update

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) was conceived as a living tribute to the wartime generations of the twentieth century. Whilst currently a high profile attraction, attracting over 300,000 visitors per year, it has the potential to reach out to international audiences in the same way as other international centres of remembrance e.g. Arlington in the US or Canberra in Australia and act as a 'dispenser' to other Staffordshire tourism offers (such as the Cannock Chase war graves).

In order to increase visitor numbers, expanded facilities (including good educational facilities) and improved infrastructure are required. A capital appeal to fund these works under the patronage of the Duke of Cambridge has so far raised £3m against an initial target of £8m (stretch target £12m). Further significant pledges have been made. SCC Cabinet has agreed to invest £3m in the National Memorial Arboretum appeal project across a six year period – beginning April 2012 (£500,000 per annum). It is likely this would be considered a significant investment by other funders and would also assist a second round bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Basic need funding for additional school places

Department for Education (DfE) has announced additional funding totalling £25.3m towards the provision of additional primary school places in the county.

The county council had submitted information to the DfE demonstrating population growth in the county and, in November, the DfE granted £10.3m from a one-off national allocation towards "Basic Need" of £600m. Then this month, in the 2012/13 capital settlement for local authorities, Staffordshire gained a further £15m towards Basic Need.

The £25m granted is much better than for most Local Authorities and other Shire counties. A major proportion of this funding will be used to provide additional primary school places in Burton on Trent, where we have recently acquired land for 1 new school and obtained outline permission for another.

Post 16 home to school and college transport policy

The council is rebalancing its traditional student travel offer. Before any decision was taken, the council ran a public consultation which closed on 1st February 2012.

The numbers of students using the traditional student travel scheme has fallen from 3,000 to just 1,300. This coincides with the introduction last year of the council's discounted youth travel scheme, the Your Staffordshire Card. This free card is becoming the solution of choice for the majority of students, offering bus journeys in the county for just £1 per trip 24/7.

Students with a learning difficulty or disability who need specialised transport such as a taxi would continue to get support, and pay a contribution equivalent to £2.77 per day. Low income students would pay the equivalent of just £2 per day. Where there could be genuine issues we are looking to provide help by other means.

The changes would favour a more equitable approach where everyone pays their fair share. The proposed changes to the existing policy would also bring the scheme more in line with the council's offer for under 16s. It will be reviewed after 6 months of operation.

Moving to the MASH

Last September saw the launch of Families First, a new service model to improve outcomes for children and young people. A wide range of positive activity continues to support prosperity in the county, to improve health and promote the independence of vulnerable people and to further reduce crime rates.

The county council's First Response Service is taking part in an innovative approach to safeguarding and protecting some of the county's most vulnerable people.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is a brand new development that brings together teams from various agencies who receive information suggesting that someone may be suffering harm.

Teams taking safeguarding referrals regarding adults and children at Staffordshire Police and in local health services will join our First Response Service at a joint location in Stone from the beginning of December. Two people from Stoke-on-Trent City Council will also be joining the MASH.

Information sharing is at the heart of the MASH. Within their secure working environment, teams will openly share information so that each agency can identify the potential for significant harm at the earliest possible stage and agree the most appropriate action to prevent a problem worsening.

It's basically like bringing together the separate parts of a jigsaw puzzle so that we have a more accurate picture of any given situation. The important thing to remember is that current referral processes won't change. The role of the First Response Service will remain the same, as will the ways you can contact them – the MASH will simply give them access to a wealth of additional information so that we can make a better informed decision over the best course of action.

Look out for more information on the development of the MASH and the vital contribution of our First Response Service in the coming months.

Stafford Hospital A&E Night Time Closure

Following the decision to temporarily close A&E at Stafford hospital between the hours of 10.00 pm and 8.00 am for a three month period from 1st December 2011, on the 28th November 2011, Staffordshire Health Scrutiny Committee, joined by additional Health Scrutiny Members from Stafford Borough and South Staffordshire District Councils, questioned representatives of the PCT Cluster and other NHS trusts affected about how they were working to make sure that safe, responsive and high quality emergency services were in place.

Members held a full discussion with the attendees on the responsibility for ensuring business continuity and patient safety, the measures that had been put in place by all partners to guarantee that plans were in place to ensure capacity to deal with the impact of the decision, what had been done to avoid this decision having to be made and what actions were being taken to make sure the closure was temporary.

The Joint Health Scrutiny Accountability Session for Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust continue to meet and challenge Trust representatives on progress with improving their care and services. The focus is on the impact of the temporary overnight closure of Accident and Emergency at Stafford hospital and progress towards re-opening.

The County Council's view is that the safe operation of the hospital has to come first and therefore the decision to close was right, but It is clear that the facility needs to be opened again safely as soon as possible.

The news of the last year for Staffordshire was Jaguar Land Rover / i54

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) have selected an 80 acre plot at i54 in South Staffordshire to build a new engine plant. This will create 750 jobs in the first phase, with further jobs to be created in phase 2. After the County Council, JLR, the HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) and Wolverhampton City Council completed all the necessary land transactions the County Council will commence a number of major civil engineering contracts to prepare the site for JLR, complete all the on-site and off-site infrastructure, and build a new motorway junction into the site from the M54. The total cost of all the work is about £46m, and should be completed by the summer of 2014.

The remaining land on the site, totalling about 30 acres, not developed by JLR will be marketed to other companies including companies who supply the JLR engine plant.

In addition to a working group on the Land and Property project, there have also been a couple of other i54 working groups established. These are in relation to Skills and Supply Chain and Communities and Communications. The groups involve a wide range of partners, including the three local authorities and JLR.

As part of the support offer to JLR to assist in delivering the full benefits of investment linked to i54 a group focusing on "Skills and Supply Chain" has been established. With representatives from each of the strategic local authorities, the group met with JLR to begin discussions regarding new supply chain opportunities for non-production services; apprenticeship recruitment; existing supply chain relocation and investment opportunities in i54 and beyond; and wider links with education providers. Opportunities to make effective use of the new freedoms and flexibilities signalled by government, including the employer ownership programme, and sector-based training partnerships are key topics for consideration.

The County Council is calling on our partners to simplify planning and associated procedures across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire and introduce a "kite mark" scheme – planning is frequently commented about by business. The LEP believes that a simple protocol between it and the Local Planning Authorities can help to improve the understanding of all parties and improve performance.

The County Council is investing £7.6m to speed up the deployment and enable 90% of Staffordshire to have Super-fast Broadband and lever in at least £22.5m of additional investment up to potentially £100m – Broadband access is a necessity for business. Broadband UK have allocated £7.44m to our area to ensure as wide a coverage as possible where there is market failure.

Apprenticeships

Figures released by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) indicate very strong growth in apprenticeship starts in Staffordshire – up 24% for 16-18 year olds. This is very good news and reflects the energy and commitment going into promoting apprenticeships across Staffordshire. This work is led by the

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Apprenticeship Group which, in conjunction with the LEP, is planning to hold an Apprenticeship Awards event during Apprenticeship week in February 2012. Employers and training providers will be invited to nominate their apprentices, with a focus for the award being on the value the apprentice has added to that company or business, in order to raise the profile of the difference apprentices can and do make to employers.

A series of employer engagement events are planned to be held in the weeks immediately after Apprenticeship Week 2012, including one in Newcastle which will target Newcastle employers and one in Stafford to target the employers within the supply chain of Stafford Borough Council. Similar events are now being planned for Cannock, Burton, and Tamworth and Lichfield with the respective Borough or District Councils.

Staffordshire Place Opens for Business

Staffordshire Place was opened in November 2011 and was fully occupied by 1,100 staff by the 1st December. The building is on track to achieve £250,000 of savings each year for the next 40 years and to contribute significantly to the council's carbon reduction targets. Staffordshire Place is significantly contributing to the regeneration of Stafford and has been a key factor in attracting Morrison's and M&S to develop the Riverside site in 2012. Public tours of the building have been held and a community involvement programme has been established for 2012.

Staffordshire Place sits in the heart of Stafford and forms an integral part of the town centre master plan which aims to attract investment into the area, boost the economy and put Stafford on the map as a thriving and vibrant town centre.

This is just one example of how we are helping across the county.

I remain Leader of the County Council and am on a number of other bodies including the Police Authority and Staffordshire Local Government Pensions Panel. I am Chairman of the Staffordshire Strategic Partnership and West Midlands Councils, a member of the National Executive of the Local Government Association, LGA Economy and Transport Panel and County Council Network. Many powers are delegated to Cabinet Portfolio holders and frontline councillors, your Local Member.

The Council has set a target of saving £120m over 3 years while concentrating on maintaining frontline services. We appointed a new Chief Executive, Nick Bell, last year, which has brought a fresh way of working to the Council, moving towards a commissioning service model. This One Council approach is based around our 5 core values of customer focus and personal responsibility while remembering the vulnerable that need our care. They also call for boldness and leadership while being innovative and efficient, which in turn drive the 9 key strategic priorities of the county council.

Our number 1 priority is the economy.

There are 2 departments of People and Place now. This brings Children and Adult Services together in People and their physical sectors with the Development Services departments to form Place. We have also seen the Health sector work ever closer with the county council in adult care and Public Health.



Locally last years **Staffordshire Local Community Fund** went to:

St Peter's Church Ellastone	Funding towards disabled toilets & hot water boiler within the kitchenette	1000.00
SCC Corporate Parenting Panel	Funding towards the provision of bicycles for looked after children	100.00
Dove Valley Amateur Swimming Club	Funding towards pool hire, lifeguards, medals, certificates & catering for the clubs championships	800.00
Ryecroft Middle School	Funding towards a Guildhall examiner for the performing arts club at Ryecroft Middle School	500.00
Kingstone Local News	Funding towards paper, toner & the servicing of the laser printer to continue the printing & distribution of the Kingstone Local News free to the local community	600.00
Wootton Cricket Club	Funding towards upgrading of toilet & shower facilities to include disabled facilities	1000.00
Mayfield Heritage Group	Funding towards a memorial stone to the aircrew killed 13 June 1944 in the churchyard at Mayfield	800.00
Talbot First School	Funding towards medals & engraving of trophy as part of the chess Competitions between 2 first schools	74.50
'C' Company Staffs ACF Uttoxeter	Funding towards building a false wall & stairway & painting towards the improvement of facilities for the Uttoxeter detachment	500.00
Katharine House Hospice	Funding towards replacement french windows for their in-patient unit to give access to the gardens & to improve heating in winter & reduce heating costs	500.00

All Saints First School	Funding towards accessible storage for the playgroup & sports club to be used at the school	1000.00
Uttoxeter NFU Branch	Funding towards level 2 VQ courses in Managing Health & Safety to prevent accidents within the industry	500.00
Rocester Village Hall	Funding towards the installation of an alarm system to comply with current regulations	500.00
YESS -Youth Emotional Support Services	Funding towards the official launch to support newly formed charity aiming to deliver counselling & emotional support to young people 10-19 years in 3 middle schools & high school within Uttoxeter	500.00
Uttoxeter Cricket Club	Funding towards a set of wicket covers to protect the pitch	500.00
Mayfield Youth Club	Funding towards 5 workshop sessions for the youth club in design, dance & art	700.00
Blithfield & Admaston Village Hall	Funding towards a replacement combination boiler, pipeworks & fitting for the village hall	425.50

If anyone wants to apply for funding from this year's £10,000 for local schemes, the forms are available from the County Website.

After meeting Highway officials traffic calming in Stramshall needs completing, Speed Indicators have been installed outside The Richard Clarke First School, Abbots Bromley and Talbot First School, Kingstone. They will be operational from Monday 16 April for one school term between **08:15** and **09.15** in the morning and **14:45** and **16:00** in the afternoon when pupils are arriving and leaving school. A banner will be delivered for display outside the school together with some promotional items for the pupils. Schools can request a talk to pupils about the 20 is Plenty campaign. Vehicle Activated Signs are operational at Loxley crossroads as well as extra warning signs and the Zebra crossing is in place in Mayfield outside the Henry Prince school.

I am in discussion with JCB about traffic and potential solutions on the B5030.

The latest big issue is the plans for a 87m wind turbine at Uttoxeter Quarry.

This is only a snap shot of the many things that I come across in a year and if anyone wishes to know more on any subject do not hesitate to contact me.

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<p>EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR BAGOTS WARD - REPORT</p>
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Not available at time of going to print.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
held on Wednesday, 20th April 2011
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley,
pursuant to notice having been given**

Present: Cllr Roger Jarman (Chairman)
Cllr R Mills, Cllr A Elkington, Cllr R Bell, Cllr Mrs L Fox, M King,
B Adams, A Marler, M Carter, A Knipe, S Knipe, M Mills, M Allaker,
T Wheeldon, K Johns, P Ryan, S Coxon, Cllr Mrs K Johns,
Cllr P Charles, Cllr Mrs D Burrows, A Blower, S Woods, H Davis

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Meads – Parish Clerk

Apologies: A Fox, Cllr Mrs C Veitch, Mr & Mrs E Roy, R Jones

Before the meeting started the Abbots Bromley Youth Club made a presentation on their activities and achievements during their first year.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Report

Cllr Roger Jarman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Youth Club for their presentation and all their hard work.

Cllr Jarman read out some highlights from his annual report which had already been circulated.

Following this a few issues were raised. Cllr Jarman provided clarification as to who had funded the memorial bench for Mr B Newey.

The issue of parking around Marcia Rice Court was raised. Cllr Jarman confirmed that white lines had been requested for Goose Lane and also around the entrance to Marcia Rice Court. He advised that people need to contact the PCSO to report people parking irresponsibly.

2. Presentation of the Jubilee Cup

The Chairman presented a certificate to the previous year's winners of the Jubilee Cup, Cllr Mrs K Johns and Mr P Ryan and to Cllr Mrs C Veitch in her absence.

The Chairman presented the Jubilee Cup for 2011 to Sue and Andy Knipe in recognition for all their hard work over the years with the Scout & Guide Group.

3. Abbots Bromley United Charities

The accounts of the United Charities were presented and they were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2010

Mr Tom Wheeldon commented that in the minutes of the previous year it had been noted that he had highlighted that agricultural vehicles were not being driven responsibly. Mr Wheeldon said that he had not specifically identified tractor drivers but that his point was that many drivers were driving irresponsibly.

5. Parish Council Accounts

A draft summary of the un-audited accounts for the parish council to 31st March, 2011 were tabled.

6. Open Forum

The Chairman invited questions from the meeting on any topics relevant to residents within Abbots Bromley:-

Mr Mike Carter, East Staffs Borough Councillor Neighbourhood Warden introduced himself and said that he covered the areas of Admaston, Abbots Bromley, Oakover and Uttoxeter. He explained that he was here to help with neighbourhood issues.

Mrs Mary Mills asked if it would be possible to hold a tea party on the village green to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

Cllr Greg Hall commented on the success of the Big Sweep to tidy up the village for the Best Kept Village competition and how pleased he was that so many people had been involved.

Mr Wheeldon said that on Saturday, 11th June, to celebrate the 90th Birthday, the British Legion would be holding a parade up the street to a commemoration at the War Memorial and then on to an event that was being held at the Coach and Horses. He said that everyone was welcome at the event which would run throughout the day.

Mrs Blower commented on the lack of affordable Housing in the village, in particular starter homes. She wondered if there were any plans to address this issue.

Mrs Davis said that there would be a Fete at the end of May in the Church garden in aid of the Church and Jelly Tots.

Signed _____

Date _____