

*Abbots Bromley Parish Council*



**Annual Report**



**May 2013**  
Version 1

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 2012

## 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 2013 ***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](http://www.abbotsbromley.com).

## Council Members and Officer – 2012/13

### ***Council Members***

Ray Bell	841090	Chairman
Debbie Burrows	840058	
Philip Charles	840251	
Clive Cook	840928	
Roger Jarman	840687	
Karen Johns	840381	
Michelle Moore	840280	Vice Chairman
Eric Roy	840153	

(Cllr R Mills resigned March 2013)

### ***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](mailto:parish.council@abbotsbromley.com)

## WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

### ***Working Groups***

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

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
Competitions	Cllr Mills until March 2013
Finance	Cllrs Mrs Burrows; Mrs M Moore; E Roy
Newsletter	Cllr R Bell (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 and Cook
Village Property	Cllrs Charles, Mrs Johns and Cook

### ***Representatives***

Almhouses	Cllr R Jarman
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, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 6.30 pm At the Village Hall, 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 Ray Bell
Parish Council Finance	Sarah Meads
Village Hall Report	Keith Johns
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 – to be added
Parish Council Financial Statement	To be added
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2012	

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

### Planning

Although the Parish Council does not issue planning approval, our comments are sent to the Borough Council for consideration, and they usually reflect the need to keep Abbots Bromley a pleasant place to live. In 2012 to 2013 the Parish Council responded to 44 applications.

### Best Kept Village

This year we missed out winning a third time by a narrow margin. This was due to a dog deposit on the village green, and we would again urge all dog owners to be responsible and clear up after their furry companions.

### Bulletin

We continue to issue the Abbots Bromley Bulletin on a regular basis (3 issues a year) and hope that residents find it useful.

### Surgeries

The surgeries are held in conjunction with the Police on a bi-monthly basis. Although attendance is not high, we have been able to help and reassure parishioners where needed.

### Traffic & Highways

With money being tight in the County, our efforts for highway maintenance usually take time before they are considered but we make every effort to keep roads in good repair. There are many pothole repairs currently on the waiting list. We have recently also been successful in securing another grit bin for the top of School House Lane which should be installed later this year. This adds to the six new ones which were installed in 2011.

### Village Facilities

We like to encourage local activity and have set funds aside for both the field behind the Village Hall and the Lichfield Road sports complex. Facilities provided for young people of the village continue to be well utilised.

### HS2

The proposed high speed railway line passes relatively close to the village, and although the Parish Council has to act non-politically we represent villagers where possible and point them in the appropriate direction whether in-favour or not.

**Cllr Ray Bell**  
**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 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013 will be tabled at the Parish Assembly and the final accounts for the year added after the parish council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

**Sarah Meads**  
**Parish Clerk**

## **ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall has enjoyed a stable year and income from regular client hall- users throughout the year has continued, in addition the Village Hall now operates a policy of running its own bars at functions. Over the year the Village Hall has become the venue for 17 various functions, from wedding receptions, Christenings, birthday and children's parties, to a pony club get together.

The addition revenue has greatly benefited the Village Hall and I hope will protect the Hall from expected future maintenance expense, in particular the lift which is coming to the end of its life.

The Trustees continue in their efforts to purchase the field at the rear of the Village Hall, this field known as "Gallimore's Field" is two acres plus in size, if acquired the field could be used for various village purposes and would benefit the whole community. The field would become an asset of the Village Hall Charitable Trust and would be held in trust for the village in perpetuity. Fundraising for the field continues with a function Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 featuring "Lola Lamour".

We have benefited throughout the year from a hard working team of volunteers, may I thank everyone who has supported us in our efforts, in particular our hard working custodian Rose Maidstone.

We look forward to a successful year

**Keith Johns**  
**Chairman of the Management Committee**

## **Abbots Bromley Community First Responders**

Abbots Bromley Community First Responder Group continues to operate within the village and surrounding areas.

This year will be the ninth year of its operation, initially for Staffordshire Ambulance and now for the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Activations to 999 emergencies remain around the 350 per year, a figure that has changed little over the years.

The numbers of responders currently qualified is eight. We attempt to provide 24/7 cover, but that is becoming increasingly difficult. We do need more recruits but being a first responder requires a high level of commitment and can be very disruptive to social and home life. It is a voluntary occupation and may be more suitable to people who have regular spare time, particularly during weekdays.

Training is provided by the ambulance service, initially at intermediate level, and then if the applicant wishes and has attained the required level of attendance on duty, to the higher enhanced level.

The nature of the task requires personal qualities capable of coping with situations sometimes of a stressful nature.

**Colin Palmer**  
**Co-ordinator**

## Abbots Bromley Community Transport

Last year the community transport clocked up a mileage of 1,266 miles, we still have 4 drivers.

Staffordshire County Council gave us a grant of £489.00 for last year and this year the grant has been frozen. Out of this I have to pay the insurance which has now gone up to £213.87 and I also to pay my driver what they have earned.

The most popular destinations are The Queens Hospital, Lichfield Station, Rugeley, and the Doctor's Surgery.

The scheme is still working very well.

**David 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:** We have not yet received the budget for 2013/2014 but it is not expected to place too many onerous demands upon us. The current budget has been well-managed and will leave us with a small surplus which will be carried over into the new budget. We are still able to offer single-year classes and retain our existing complement of teaching staff and classroom assistants. We are planning to undertake a major upgrade of our elderly IT systems and this has already been built into our financial plans. The time when computers were seen as simply nice-to-have has long since passed; they are now a fundamental requirement together with excellent teachers, of course.

Key financial points for 2013/14 include:-

- Staffordshire have formed a joint venture (ENTRUST) with Capita to provide services to schools. These include catering, grounds maintenance, legal support, insurance services etc. Service Level Agreements (SLAs) will need to be negotiated with whichever service provider the school selects.
- The budget for 2013-14 is a settlement for one year only. Staffordshire have guaranteed that no school will lose more than 1.5% from last year's budget. However, a new funding formula, proposed by the Government, will be implemented from April 2015 and it is not yet known what impact this will have.
- All schools receive a pupil premium designed to support disadvantaged children. For example, those receiving free school meals, children from service families, looked-after children, from the traveler community etc. The targeted use of this cash has to be reported in detail and its effect is scrutinized by OfSTED. Since RCFS only receives the premium for a tiny number of free school meals and nothing else, this does not present a problem – although the extra income would always be useful.

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. Halloween Disco, Christmas Fayre and Raffle) has had a major impact on our ability to purchase additional resources to enhance both the curriculum and the learning environment. It has also sponsored children on school visits

during the year. Also, of course, I must mention the Endowment Fund, courtesy of the eponymous 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, which directly determines our funding, varies substantially from year to year. In 1998 our number on roll was 145; we will finish this year with 113 pupils on the roll, including 23 children in Reception Class. We are expecting 30 new pupils in September 2013, with 29 leaving for Middle School. This means, of course, that we will have at least two large classes passing through the school for the next four years, giving our roll a very healthy core. In fact, there is forecast to be a significant shortfall in primary school places over the next few years so our numbers could increase further.

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 have not yet hit our intake limit (PAN) of 30 but we are getting close. It is difficult to believe that just a couple of years ago we were debating merging classes because of the falling pupil numbers.

**Staffing:** We have managed to retain our excellent staff and have been able to maintain our policy with regard to the targeted use of teaching assistants. The new maths teacher mentioned in last year's report is now performing even better than expected and is infecting everyone with his enthusiasm, especially but not exclusively in mathematics.

**Premises:** There have been no significant problems with the school grounds or buildings over the past year.

We have conducted a successful, incident-free fire drill evacuation and have also received a Grade 4 level in a Health and Safety audit carried out by the Local Authority. We were commended for "keeping up a high standard of health and safety and showing a commitment to the safety of the school community and buildings."

It was not all good news. The school was closed for one day as a precaution following the discovery of a gas leak, which was diagnosed as a dry joint problem and fixed quickly. Also, we have recently discovered that another section of our remaining lead flashing has disappeared but we have no idea when this happened. However, there is now very little left that has not been replaced with a lead substitute.

**School Performance:** Last year's OfSTED inspection gave us a very encouraging report. RCFS was rated *Good* (with some *Outstanding* characteristics) and so we are not expecting another inspection in the near future. Indeed, a list of Staffordshire schools which are identified as possible OfSTED targets blessedly excludes RCFS. For anyone who needs their memory refreshing, the full report is available on our web-site. ([www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk))

Although an OfSTED inspection has not taken place, we do have regular school performance data supplied by the DfE and OfSTED. This shows that RCFS performs significantly better than the national average in almost every category. A simplified version of this data, designed for parents, known as the School Data Dashboard, is available on the OfSTED web-site. Nonetheless, we are not complacent and have a core set of priorities in our School Improvement Plan:-

- **Assessment for Learning:** The importance of work scrutiny and feed-back and allowing children effectively to respond. There is also a policy of peer review which seems to be very effective for reviewer and reviewed.
- **Maths across the curriculum:** Maths is a vital, basic skill and we have make opportunities for mathematical thinking to become a natural, possibly implicit, part of all curriculum activities.

- **Challenging the more able pupils:** There are well-recognised strategies for supporting children who are experiencing difficulties, but there is also the need to extend the able children who may become disengaged if they are not stretched. This is a key priority.
- **Staff development and support:** Quality of teaching is OfSTED's highest priority. Indeed, a school can only be awarded an 'outstanding' rating if teaching too is rated as outstanding. Paired, peer, monitoring takes place together with teaching observation to make sure that best practices are shared.

Whenever a priority target is set we have to assemble a body of evidence to demonstrate that strategies are working and that targets are being achieved. This takes considerable effort but, without such supporting evidence, OfSTED will probably disregard whatever claims we might make.

**School Self-Review: Parents' Questionnaire:** The annual questionnaires have been sent to parents but have not yet been returned for analysis. However, the results of the OfSTED survey of parents, children and staff last year were reported as "overwhelmingly supportive of the school" in all categories. We can only hope that this year's survey is equally positive.

**Other matters:** RCFS has always tried to offer extended (i.e. out of hours) opportunities which are age and gender appropriate for our pupils. Amongst these well-supported activities are Forest School Club, Dance Club, Spy School, Football, Fencing, Choir and Martial Arts. I will not dwell on the images conjured up.

**Summary:** The OfSTED Annual Report stresses the importance of the leadership of schools. Any new inspection will consider school governance more so than in the past, including the performance of governing bodies as well as the leadership of teaching. The RCFS governing body has demonstrated its worth on many occasions but we still need to recognise that our role, though voluntary, needs to maintain a focus on support and challenge.

All schools in Staffordshire are facing funding difficulties, having to organise for the major change in the provision of LA services and support and having to cope with uncertainty about the changing world of education. We are finding new ways of collaborating with other local First Schools to improve the learning experience and, of course, to reduce costs. Past experience and the accumulating body of evidence suggests that we are an excellent, well-led and resilient school which will not become a casualty of the current educational overhaul. I hope to be confirming this in my next report.

The latest news about The Richard Clarke First School can be found on our web-site ([www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk)) together with OfSTED reports and other performance information.

**John Hough**  
**Chair of Governors, Richard Clarke First School**

## Youth Initiative

### **The Young People**

We have 62 members all between 11 and 17 year of age

There have been lots of new faces attending over the last twelve months. The majority are between 12 and 15 years of age.

There is a regular attendance of between 20 and 35 young people, split 50/50 boys and girls. We had 80 at our Christmas Disco, this year was slightly different in that we allowed 5 – 10 year olds



on the first session, which was run by the older members, then we had 10 – 17 year olds at the later disco.

We currently have four older kids signed up as young volunteers, they are at various stage of a training package organised and run by Staffordshire Youth Service. There are also six young people working their way through bronze, silver or gold Duke of Edinburgh training programme, again organised and run by Staffordshire Youth and Community Service.

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

### **Funding**

We have received £2,389 (£3,154) from various sources during the year

Highlights include

£1,000 kindly donated by ABPC in May 2012

£1,088 (£671) from our 50p per week subs and tuck which the young people now manage

£251 (£419) raised by the kids on Horn Dance day

£250 (£200) matched funding from National Grid which is expected shortly

£50 (£50) from Abbots Bromley Footballers

Figures in brackets are for previous year

We have also received a grant of £550 from East Staffs BC to build a storage cupboard in the village hall for our equipment, our thanks to Greg Hall.

### **Locally Planned Events**

During the year we have worked with Staffordshire Youth and Community Service to:-

- Organise additional Youth Club meetings on Wednesday afternoons during the Summer and Easter holidays
- Help to make the Jubilee event in the village hall a day to remember
- Team up with the Spanish kids and their teachers using the girls' school during August to organise 3 "cultural" evening using the facilities offered by the Village hall and its environment – the last of which involved 192 young people and their carers.
- Plan and organise "Cooking for all" evenings on alternate Youth club evening from September onwards

and

- Purchase 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 kids seem to be happy with our efforts.

Our volunteers of which we have 7 (8) are wonderful but it is the combined efforts of Staffordshire Youth Service led locally by Gemma Lanchester our Senior Youth Worker and our Volunteers that gives us cohesion.

Staffordshire Youth Service has now assigned three 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. £1,100 per annum for the Village Hall - we secured a 20% reduction in September 2011 and during the summer we try to conduct most of our activities outdoors. We currently have £1,409 (£1,375) in the bank with a further £1k of granted monies just received from ABPC about to be banked. 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 1/2 hours per month (1 evening a month)

Anybody interested should phone me on 07787536381 for more details

**P Ryan, AB 4 Youth**

<p><b>STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UTTOXETER RURAL DIVISION - REPORT</b></p>
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## Uttoxeter Rural Division Annual Report May 2013

With the 2012 Olympics now behind us, last summer was very much a time for celebration both nationally and here in Staffordshire. Take all this – the attitude, the confidence – and you will see what Staffordshire is today. Sure of who we are, proud of who we are, not a county whose time has been, but one whose time has come.

I feel pride in what has been achieved since 2009 in control at Staffordshire County Council. We are delivering real tangible outcomes for the real people of Staffordshire. Our Staffordshire approach to finances is pragmatic; we carefully manage and are highly targeted so our residents can plan for the future with much greater confidence.

This year we have achieved the lowest county council tax in the country with a Band D at £1027.25 while still continuing to deliver services in new and innovative ways for those who really need us and the programme is still on track to save £133 million.

In the past year the bringing together of NHS and SCC staff in an Integrated Trust has taken place, Engaging Communities Staffordshire has started to listen to people's concerns along with Health Watch. Public Health has returned to local government and Health and Well Being Boards are bringing together all parts of the health sector to work together.

For the future we face three key challenges across Staffordshire: creating more jobs and stimulating economic growth, ensuring our organisations are as efficient, innovative and effective as possible, and working together across the public and private sectors to combine knowledge, expertise and financial power to make a real difference in our communities.

- ✓ Lowest County Council Tax in the country, frozen for three years – and saved £133m over 5 years.

- ✓ Invested extra £50 million into Staffordshire highways network road reconstruction repairing the damage of neglect
- ✓ Transport—extended concessionary free bus travel package to all day/every day for older people and the disabled.
- ✓ Introduced discounted travel for young people who travel round the county for just £1 per journey.
- ✓ With a £2m Staffordshire Business Loans Support Fund—helped 70 small businesses, saved 300 and created 170 new jobs.
- ✓ With WiFi in all of our 43 libraries they are now community resource centres encouraging more people to use our libraries.
- ✓ Telecare—help with medicine at home for more than 1,000 residents saving the taxpayer an estimated £3,000 per user.
- ✓ White Paper on Social Care and Health showing how services will develop
- ✓ Voluntary sector—adult social care is the service area where we make our major contribution of around £18 million per year, increasing overall funding, targeting smaller community support groups through our innovative Community Wellbeing Fund.
- ✓ Children’s Services—Families First making an integrated approach with substantial savings and protecting front line services.
- ✓ Tackling problem families and anti social behaviour with a partnership approach
- ✓ Waste to Energy plant delivering £250m savings by waste to heat management, avoiding the need for landfill of waste.
- ✓ Created the largest Integrated NHS Trust, saving cash to reinvest in the increased demand for care in our communities
- ✓ Encouraged volunteering by a genuine partnership, positioning volunteering as an essential part of a successful community.
- ✓ Clamped down on intrusive wind farm developments
- ✓ Said No to High Speed Rail – we will work with our communities to make sure their voice is heard
- ✓ Road safety —one of the safest Counties in the Country and one of the first to introduce 20mph zones outside schools.
- ✓ Winter highway maintenance —we routinely salt over 43% of the county road network compared to 25% nationally.
- ✓ Invested in new Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras to catch criminals on the move
- ✓ Protected jobs in our Education Support Services and secured vital new investment for the future
- ✓ Supported a new Rural Academy School and with County farms supporting the future of our rural economy
- ✓ Invested £3m in the National Memorial Arboretum and helped create Mercian Trail for the Staffordshire Hoard
- ✓ Our Expression of Interest for a City Deal with our Local Enterprise Partnership has been accepted by government to potentially create 30,000 jobs, increase our GVA by 50% over 10 years engaging major business, both our Universities and all our colleges to support our number one priority, our economy and job creation.
- ✓ Engaging with communities by our introduction of a framework to listen and hear what people say, putting localism into action.

These are a flavour of some of the projects from the last year.

### **Education Support Services**

Staffordshire County Council and Capita have signed a contract officially creating a new joint venture company, which will bring over £50 million of new investment into Staffordshire and safeguard jobs.

The partnership will have its headquarters in the county and provide an extensive package of services from school improvement to catering, ground maintenance and performing arts.

It will see around 4,000 existing jobs protected and an extra 1,600 jobs created. As part of the deal, the county council will receive a capital payment of nearly £32 million, which will be available to reinvest in a wide range of council projects and services including education, care for the elderly and looking after children in care.

Capita, which have described the deal with the county council to be their 'biggest to date' have committed to protect jobs and transfer all existing staff into the joint venture company under TUPE regulations.

This deal represents a massive change in how the public sector can work in a completely different way with the private sector. Instead of outsourcing services directly to a private sector company, we have created a new hybrid model, taking the public sector skills and experience and injecting fresh cash, energy and commercial expertise from the private sector to turn a potential problem into an exciting opportunity.

Capita are hugely excited about the opportunity to help grow a sustainable thriving education business based in Staffordshire and have committed a significant sum of up-front investment which will be used to improve the existing services. It will bring about greater use of technology in education, and improve the existing outdoor education centres as well as creating a flagship new build Academy school in Stafford.

Staffordshire's Health and Social Care services come together in an Integrated Health Trust

This is the biggest integration of its kind in the country and will mean that people will spend less time in hospital and get more treatment at home.

Over 1,000 Adult Social Care staff moved over to the NHS to form the UK's biggest integrated health and social care provider.

The new partnership between Staffordshire County Council and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Partnership Trust is delivering easier to understand and efficiently delivered health and social care.

By reducing the inefficiencies which lead to the unnecessary demand on care services; removing duplication and streamlining the delivery of integrated care, the savings are around £30 million every year in costs.

This is about improving the experience of citizens while making best use of taxpayers' money. The decision, confirmed by the Department of Health, sees nearly 1,000 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. It is responsible for all adult social and community healthcare within Staffordshire and all community healthcare in Stoke-on-Trent, delivering everything from physiotherapy to day care opportunities.

A key driver for the change is to cut out duplication and reduce confusion for residents, and to ensure more people receive care in their own homes and community rather than in hospital or a residential home, helping people stay independent and in control.

The new integrated delivery arrangements will:

- Make best use of hospital and community beds
- Reduce delays in transferring patients from hospital back to their home environment
- Mean fewer people have to be admitted to hospital in a rush
- Reduce use of residential care
- Increase the amount, quality and safety of care delivered in people's homes.

The planning and operation of the new service was developed over two years between Staffordshire County Council and the NHS in Staffordshire.

It squares the circle between the need to cut public spending and to meet increasing demand for vital services such as adult care. Rather than cut services to reduce costs Staffordshire County

Council and Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Partnership Trust have worked together to design a radical and creative solution that both improves the service to local people and reduces the cost of providing adult social and health care services across Staffordshire.

The decision changes the face of health and social care services in the county, and is a significant step in the journey to join up wider healthcare services and transform the quality of care for patients. The integration will reduce duplication, improve effectiveness and create the professional freedom required to meet care needs in the most efficient way possible. For citizens it will mean less confusion and a faster, smarter, local service on their doorstep.

### **Tri Councils**

The three councils involved, Staffordshire CC, Worcestershire CC and Shropshire Council, are determined they are recognised for the high quality and value of our local services. We believe that in difficult times this means exploring all options, individually and collectively, to ensure that improved outcomes and efficiencies are achieved. The pace of this agenda for change has accelerated and has led to new proposals since the summer of 2011 (when we started) for sharing where it makes sense to do so.

Greater collaboration will mean that, in future, we will design services once and use many times, jointly commission better services, reduce structural costs and cut overheads to protect frontline services in each of our authorities. We are looking at many different activities for sharing.

We have started with Economic Growth and Connectivity, Fostering, Adoption and Residential Care, Education services for schools, Information and Communications Technology, and Contract Management and Procurement. We are already in discussion with other neighbouring councils which may be interested in joining in a successful partnership.

We have four guiding principles for the Tri-Council project:

- To respond early and pro-actively to austere times by sharing what we do wherever sensible to do so.
- To meet the performance expectations of our customers by sharing delivery solutions with other sectors.
- To build on our existing strengths and initiatives and share learning experiences with each other.
- To concentrate on what we each do best and partner for the rest to improve the commissioning and provision of services

### **District Deals**

While working with business through our Local Enterprise Partnership and Stoke on Trent City Council on our expression of interest in a City Deal called a Charter for Growth, the county council saw a unique opportunity to translate the principles of the LEP Deal into a series of unique District Deals for the LEP area.

These deals confirm shared priorities and commitments that will help support the aspirations of the District Councils within Staffordshire and accelerate local economic growth by lending the county council's weight to the wheel of our district council ambitions.

Each deal sets out how the county council will help economic development, transport and infrastructure, cultural work, skills and educational attainment, vulnerable communities and better work together. The Deals are followed up by joint member governance boards that see these aspirations are delivered.

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

Work is well underway at I54 South Staffordshire with Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) building a large engine plant which has now increased in size to create 1,450 jobs. The County Council is undertaking 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.

## Skills and Education

As part of the City Deal an Education Trust has been set up with the objective of bringing Universities, Colleges, Schools, Academies, Business and those interested in ensuring our industries of the future have skilled people here and that our people can take up the new jobs the City Deal will bring. We need to act to ensure our children and young people get the best start in life and receive a good education so they can make a positive contribution to their communities.

## Super-fast Broadband

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 potentially £100m additional investment – 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. Contracts will be signed on May 23 and work complete in 2016.

## Stafford Hospital

Following the decision to appoint Administrators there is a tightly timetabled process.

The Trust Special Administrators replaces the Board and has taken over the running of the hospital including clinical safety. The hospital will continue to operate as usual and staff have been assured that their terms and conditions and roles remain unaltered with services being delivered as normal.

We are into a 145 day period. **The public consultation is expected to commence the week commencing the 24 June 2013 - for 30 days. 2 public meetings will be organised for the next 2-3 weeks**

## Police and Crime Commissioners

Matthew Ellis was elected as the first Police and Crime Commissioner and we continue to work closely with him. Matthew was a Cabinet member at SCC.

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	Funding towards replacement french windows for their in-	500.00

Hospice	patient unit to give access to the gardens & to improve heating in winter & reduce heating costs	
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 or 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 next year's £10,000 for local schemes, the forms are available from the County Website.

After meeting Highway officials traffic calming in Stramshall will be completed, 20 is Plenty campaigns will continue to operate outside schools. 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 First School.

A consultation will take place in Rocester in May on major alterations to the Hollington Road/High Street junctions about traffic and potential solutions on the B5030, hopefully funded by Government Pinch point Funding.

The wind turbine at Uttoxeter Quarry was refused planning permission.

After May 2nd and the county council election, Marchington and Draycott in the Clay Parishes rejoin Uttoxeter Rural Division after an absence of 8 years. I have already started to take an interest in what is happening in Crown Ward.

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

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly  
held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
at Church House, Abbots Bromley,  
pursuant to notice having been given**

Present: Cllr Roger Jarman (Chairman)  
Cllr R Mills, Cllr R Bell, Cllr Mrs D Burrows, Cllr P Charles,  
M Mills, N Haywood, S Wilson, S Lucas, J Hough, M Shaw, J Biggs, M  
Allaker, M Williams, G Grundy, Cllr G Hall, K Cadman, K Johns, A Blower, J  
Stevenson, C Woods, T Wheeldon, S Davis, V Webb, A Knipe

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Meads – Parish Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Mrs M Moore, Cllr E Roy, Cllr C Cook, Mrs H Davis, Mr A Fox, Mrs L  
Fox, PCSO Hunt,

Before the meeting started presentations were given by the Abbots Bromley Scouts & Guides on the progress of the purchase of the Mini Bus for community use and the Football and Cricket Club gave an update on progress with the new sports complex on Lichfield Road.

Mr T Wheeldon's presentation made the following key points:-

- The new sports field will be at the bottom of Lichfield Road
- At some point the cricket club may be asked to move from the existing cricket ground
- A renewable 50 year lease had been secured
- Healthy to combine forces between the cricket and football clubs
- This will be a community initiative
- The project committee will ensure that they build a legacy for the future
- Mr J Stevenson is the chairman of the project
- He stressed that both practical and financial help will be required.

Mr Knipe's presentation made the following key points:-

- The current Scout and Guide bus is a bit old
- Support has been provided by Mrs C Veitch to obtain funding. £6,000 has been received from Natwest Community Fund, £10,000 from the National Lottery and additional funds are to be received from ESBC.
- The intention is that the bus will be used by lots of groups in the village.
- All users will need to hold their own permit and comply with the rules and regulations.
- Delivery of the bus expected in June
- The bus will be insured by the Scout and Guide Group
- The bus will have Abbots Bromley written on it.
- It is intended the benefit the Scouts and Guides, The Youth Club and any other non-profit making organisations in the village
- There will be a strict list of regulations for drivers and only a list of approved driver will be able to use the bus.

Following the presentation by Mr Knipe, Mrs Mills asked if the bus will have a disabled access lift as it should have if it is to be used by the whole community. Mr Knipe confirmed that it is not a requirement for a Community Mini Bus to have this.

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome and Report.**

Cllr Roger Jarman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mr Wheeldon and Mr Knipe for their presentations.



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

Following this a few issues were raised.

Mr T Wheeldon asked about the grading of Abbots Bromley as a Strategic Village and how the Parish Council is going to fight to be downgraded to a local services village and what would be the implications if the village isn't downgraded.

Borough Cllr Greg Hall confirmed that even if the village isn't downgraded then there should not be any major developments coming to Abbots Bromley in the near future.

Mr Wheeldon also asked if more could be done to get the 20 is Plenty signs to cover more of the village and not just the centre. This concern was also raised by Rev Davis. Cllr Jarman said that the Parish Council will continue to work on this and try to get the scheme back in to the village and possibly have the signs further out in the village.

## **2. Presentation of the Jubilee Cup**

The Chairman presented a certificate to the previous year's winners of the Jubilee Cup, Mr Andy Knipe and Mrs Sue Knipe.

The Chairman presented the Jubilee Cup for 2012 to Cllr Roger Mills and Mrs Mary Mills in recognition for all their hard work over the years on the Best Kept Village competition.

## **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 2011**

Were signed as a true and correct record.

## **5. Parish Council Accounts**

A draft summary of the un-audited accounts for the parish council to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 were tabled.

## **6. Open Forum**

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

Borough Cllr Greg Hall provided a verbal report as he had not been able to provide a written one before the meeting.

He said that he was happy with how things are being run at ESBC and that they are providing value for money. This year there was no increase in council tax. Cllr Hall reported that he is now Chair of the Planning Committee.

In terms of funding WASPS had provided funds for new Horn Dance leaflets printed by the Parish Council and also funds towards a new cupboard for the Youth Club at the Village Hall. WAPS funding also contributed to the purchase of the mini bus. Cllr Hall also thanked the Parish Council for their hard working in helping to make the mini bus happen.

With regard to planning Cllr Hall said that he was surprised that the development at Mickledale Cottage did not need planning permission. He explained that it all comes down to whether the property has a frontage on to a highway. It is a very rare thing that we are unlikely to see again. He also explained that lots of planning issues will now be dealt with locally.

The Local Plan is currently being developed and will be going out to formal consultation in June. Anyone can consult on this. Go to ESBC website planning section. There is also an opportunity to develop Neighbourhood Plans and currently there are 11 villages that are front runners.

Following Cllr Hall's report Cllr Jarman asked if there were any questions or issues that anyone would like to raise.

Mrs Cadman asked what could be done about the speed on Lichfield Road. She also said that there is congestion by the girl's school with the exit by the Top Shop and also problems caused by people doing a U-turn at the top of Ashbrook Lane. Cllr Jarman said that the Parish Council had been in touch with the school regarding reversing the entrance and exits and would continue to chase this up.

Mrs Allaker said that she was concerned about the speed on Burton Road. Cllr Mills said that they needed to get the speed camera out again. Mr Haywood said that they would be more than welcome to stand in his drive when using the speed camera.

Mr Haywood asked it was possible to get the 30mph speed limit moved on Lichfield Road so that it was further out of the village. Rev Davis said that one of the paper boys was knocked off his bike on this road so there was a risk. Cllr Jarman said that the Parish Council would speak to PCSO Hunt to see if the police could become involved with this.

Mr Wheeldon reported that both he and Mr Hayley represent the village on the Neighbourhood Forum. They attend these gatherings on a regular basis but feel that a representative from the Parish Council should attend. He continued to ask if there was any weight in the claims in the Lichfield Mercury that devolved powers are available to downgrade roads.

Mr Haywood reported that the Scout and Guide Fun Run will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> June starting at the Fire Station.

Mr Hough then updated everyone on the Patient Participation Group. The group has conducted a survey of patients. He said that budgets were going to be dramatically cut. The group had encouraged the surgery to have a website. Regular meetings will be held that members of the public can come along to and they are keen to hear different perspectives. The Group will talk to the surgery on residents' behalf.

Mr Wheeldon said that he would like to thank everybody for their support for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British Legion and for the turnout on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. He said that there would be a short commemorative service at the War Memorial on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr Jarman asked if there were any further questions. With no further questions the meeting was declared closed at 8.40pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_