

# 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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## 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.

### ***Summary to all homes***

A summary of this annual report from the parish council is to be included in the June 2014 ***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 – 2014/15

### ***Council Members***

Ray Bell	841090	
Debbie Burrows	840058	
Philip Charles	840251	
Clive Cook	840928	
Roger Jarman	840687	Chairman
Karen Johns	840381	
Michelle Moore	840280	Vice Chairman
Eric Roy	840153	
Phil Ryan	840019	

### ***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	Mrs D Burrows, The Clerk
Finance/Grants	Cllrs Mrs Burrows; P Charles; E Roy
Newsletter	Cllr R Bell (Editor) The Clerk Cllr P Charles (Distribution)
Planning	All Councillors
Recreation	Cllrs Charles, Ryan, Mrs Burrows and Mrs Johns
Traffic & Parking	Cllrs Charles, Mrs Johns, Cook, Roy
Village Property	Cllrs Charles, Cook, Roy

### ***Representatives***

Almhouses	Cllr Jarman
Crime & Social Issues	Cllrs Charles and Mrs Johns
Fairtrade	Cllr Charles
Finance Officer	Cllr Mrs Burrows
Richard Clarke First School	Cllr Mrs Burrows
School Governor	None
United Charities	Cllrs Charles and Cook
Village Hall	Cllr Mrs Johns
ABSA	Cllr Ryan

## **Reports to the Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 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 Roger Jarman
Parish Council Finance	Sarah Meads
Village Hall Report	Cllr Ray Bell
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 2014	

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

**Planning** – The substantive and controversial application this year so far has been:

**Ashbrook Lane:** This is potentially the most substantive potential development we have seen in the village for many years, and sadly has the potential of destroying Abbots Bromley as we know it. Although the developer has declared 80 houses, the actual acreage to be submitted could apparently take up to 100 houses. This would increase the size of our village by between 10% and 13%. If granted, it does not take much imagination to see the adjoining land being added over the next few years, potentially doubling the size of our village. As well as the roads not being able to cope with the additional commuter traffic, neither would the school and the surgery. At the moment no formal application has been submitted, although the developer stated at his presentation at the Crown that he had been in discussion with ESBC for about 12 months.

**The Village Plan.** In 2012 we managed to get Abbots Bromley downgraded from a Strategic Village to a Local Service Village, which we believed would stop this totally inappropriate development, limiting us to a potential maximum of 40 new houses. As we reported last year, we submitted our village plan based on a total of 40 houses to cause the minimum disruption to existing residents, and continue the linear development of the village on both the Uttoxeter and Lichfield Roads. This was accepted by ESBC. Unfortunately the Borough wide plan was not accepted by the Government inspector. We believe that he is due to report back to ESBC at the end of May. Until then it appears that the government has effectively given open house to developers.

**Ivy House, High Street.** At long last Walton Homes has completed the re-build of Ivy House itself, and removed their hideous orange signs. As for the rest of the site, we will report progress next year!

**Conservation Review** We have responded to ESBC's review of the Conservation area in Abbots Bromley. This followed a public meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. We would be happy to provide a full copy of our response, but it has been summarised as follows:

- 1) Abbots Bromley Parish Council does feel that the document is a good start, but more work needs to be done to ensure that it is accurate and up to date
- 2) Every effort needs to be made by ESBC to ensure that this document helps to shape the village in the future and ensure that it is not ruined by inappropriate large-scale development that is not in keeping with a village of such historic importance.
- 3) Further extensions to the Conservation Area should be considered in order to give some protection to areas of historical significance
- 4) The timber industry should be recognised within the Economic Development section.

**Best Kept Village** – we were once again successful in winning the large village category in East Staffordshire, ahead of Yoxall and Rocester. Although we did not win the area trophy to put on the village green (this was won by Denstone in the small village category), we were commended for “constant participation, effort, and achievement in BKV over 50 years”. Once again we have a wonderful display of children's posters.

**Bromley Bulletin** – This year we published in July, November, and February, with an additional “flyer” for April.

**Christmas Tree** – To repeat what I said last year, our thanks to the Brandrick family for donating an excellent tree. As we have said before, our own tree on the Green is getting bigger, but will this year be the year that it can “fly solo”?

**Parish Council Surgeries.** As with previous years, these bi-monthly surgeries have continued. Although the public attendance is not great, we hope that those that have needed to discuss a problem have found them useful.

**Traffic, Parking, and Highways** To repeat what we have put in our latest flyer:

Road safety continues to be a concern in the village. The Parish Council receives many complaints about dangerous and inconsiderate parking, speeding vehicles and drivers using mobile phones. The PC is now working closely with the police to improve the situation, however, there are few steps that all residents can take to help as follows:-

- Please do not park near to a junction, either opposite or within 10 metres of it. Junctions where this happens regularly include Paget Rise and Ashbrook Lane. Please advise visitors to your property as well.
- If parking with one wheel on the pavement please ensure that the pavement is wide enough to allow for this. Pedestrians with buggies or those in wheelchairs need to be able to use the footpath. This is particularly evident opposite Ashbrook Lane, outside the Goats Head and near the Almshouses.
- Report any experience of dangerous driving, use of mobile phones etc to the police. We know that these incidences happen but are often not reported.

**Youth Project.** – As previously reported, the Youth Club continues to be a success despite cuts in funding. Well done to all involved.

**Other Projects.** Planning approval has now been granted for the site on Lichfield Road.

**Jubilee Cup 2013/4.** Last years worthy recipient was Mithra Tonking for all her work in the village over three years, particularly recently to the management of the restoration project for the Almshouses.

**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 approved financial statements for the council for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 will be tabled at the Parish Assembly.

**Sarah Meads  
Parish Clerk**

## **ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL**

During the last year we have had to deal with a number of maintenance problems one of which resulted in a complete overhaul of the urinal system and sinks in the men's toilets.

After discussions with the Tennis Club, an agreement was reached to alter the Green Room so that this could be used as a meeting room and also for when they had matches. In order to

achieve this a new door was put in so that they had access to toilet facilities without needing to use the main door and the alarm system was changed.

The main hall floor was due for re-sanding and this was done in the summer. The lighting was also checked at the same time and tubes were replaced.

The passenger carrying platform has now been overhauled and a new service contract has been arranged with a local firm which should ensure there are fewer problems in the future. This will also comply with the requirements of Health and Safety legislation.

The boiler and cooker have had their annual inspection. The alarm system continues to be serviced and maintained as do the fire extinguishers.

Grounds' maintenance involved the employment of a tree surgeon to rectify problems caused by the high winds which uprooted one of the trees beside the drive.

The on-going situation in regard to 'Gallimore's Field' remains with the owners' solicitors who are still working to ascertain the registration of the ransom strip. However, there has been an offer to provide a document indicating of their intention to gift the land to the Charitable Trust.

The bar has had another successful year and continues to contribute to the funds. Thanks are due to those who give their time especially Phil Ryan who is the Licence holder.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their help and support especially the Secretary and the Treasurer. Grateful thanks are also due to the Steward, Rose Maidstone for her continued hard work.

**Ray Bell**  
**Vice-chairman – Abbots Bromley Village Hall Committee**

## **Abbots Bromley Community First Responders**

This February was the 10 anniversary of this voluntary service.

Since the group started in 2005 it has responded to 3700 emergency 999 calls, we currently are despatched regularly to Rugeley, Uttoxeter and the surrounding villages.

The CFR group is struggling to continue. There are presently 4 responders.

The ambulance service requires regular training and the commitment from its responders to continually adapt to new protocols.

Cover is being maintained for approximately 70% of the time but will fall considerably during the summer.

Probable closure of the group will mean longer waiting times for emergencies in this area. Several campaigns to obtain further support from the village have resulted in a zero effective response.

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

## Abbots Bromley Community Transport

Last year the community transport clocked up a mileage of 634miles, we now have 2 drivers.

Last year the Staffordshire County Council gave us a grant of £489.00 this year the grant has been frozen out of this I have to pay the insurance which has now gone up to £204.60

which out of that I have to pay my driver what they have earned.

The Queens Hospital, Lichfield Station, Rugeley, and the Doctor Surgery,

Shopping in Uttoxeter

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 yet to agree our budget for 2015-2016 but it appears to be business as usual. Our income is almost entirely dictated by the number of pupils on the roll and our expenditure is predominantly staff costs, which are around 80% of income. We are always considering how we might reduce costs without jeopardising the quality of education provided, and struggle to identify clear opportunities. Insurance, maintenance, heating and lighting, rent and rates are not very flexible and we have quite rightly ring-fenced learning resources. We do get a small pupil premium grant to assist potentially vulnerable children but this is forensically examined by OfSTED to make sure that it is correctly targeted, with clear evidence of its effectiveness. We have never planned for a deficit budget and neither do we try to generate a surplus, although in most years we have managed to retain a very small sum which has invariably been swallowed up in the following year. The finances at RCFS have been very well-managed but we face every year knowing that a sudden fall in pupil numbers or a major building emergency could cause us some embarrassment.

It would be scare-mongering to say that we rely on the PTFA but it would be churlish not to give them huge credit for the money they have raised for RCFS. The extra resources provided for our children and the richness of extra-curricular activities is testimony to the effectiveness of PTFA fund-raising. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for their donation towards the development of the RCFS library. Traditionally, I also have to thank the eponymous Richard Clarke, whose generosity has resounded down the centuries thanks to his Endowment Fund.

**Number of Pupils:** We currently have 121 children on our roll and could have a possible small decrease next year. Pupil numbers, as I constantly emphasise, is the key determinant of our income. We have a set of well-balanced Year Groups with Year 1 at its maximum allowable level (i.e. 30) and the others at a comfortable 21-25. With the current proposals for 80-100 new houses in the village the impact on RCFS pupil numbers will have to be considered. A few years ago our problem was falling rolls, with the possibility of merged year groups, maybe even redundancies. How things have changed.

**Staffing:** In my last report I noted that having two male teachers made us very unusual amongst Staffordshire First Schools. Now I can report that we have three, which must make us unique. We

lost our part-time Year 3 teacher and replaced her with a full-time member of staff. We are now able to provide each class with a single, dedicated teacher, supported by teaching assistants and parent volunteers. This regime provides much better continuity for the children, is very popular with parents and also frees up our Head-teacher, Mrs Hanson, to perform the ever-growing number of management tasks which are essential to satisfying OfSTED and improving standards of course. She can also use her 'spare' time and her outstanding teaching skills to mentor other staff.

There have been other noteworthy staff changes. Rose Maidstone has left us after many years of exemplary work as our site supervisor and Margaret and Roy Ashmore have finally taken a well-earned retirement. The school is enormously grateful to Rose, Margaret and Roy and wishes them well in the future.

**Resources & Premises:** There has been no major expenditure from our budget on RCFS premises but we have managed to persuade the LA to re-tile our Victorian roof and upgrade the damp-proofing and re-plaster in the Head-teacher's office. I must say thank you to our Office Manager, Louise Haywood, who seems to know who to go to in the LA when something needs to be done.

Some part of this year's planned expenditure on learning resources will focus on the acquisition and evaluation of a number of Ipads. This is not about giving in to the relentless pressure of social media but about taking advantage of some of the huge resources (e.g. educational Apps) that are now available. Many schools are completely committed to Ipads; RCFS are taking a more cautious approach, hence the evaluation period. It is planned to use the Endowment Fund for this exercise.

**School Performance:** We are still waiting for our next OfSTED inspection which could be at any time during 2015, at very short notice. However, OfSTED does seem to be focusing on school performance data to trigger inspections and, since ours show sustained improvement, we cannot be absolutely sure what will happen or when. We are subjected to regular monitoring by the LA and the results were excellent. We are also one of a trio of East Staffordshire schools who are to conduct mutual review visits of each other and feedback results to staff and governors.

RCFS performance results are amongst the best in the LA and better than National results. The performance of our Disadvantaged and our Special Educational Needs (SEN) children was also better than average National performance in every category except Maths. This is being addressed as a priority.

The focused priorities are:

- To increase proportion of outstanding teaching and learning throughout the school
- To implement new the National Curriculum and develop effective assessment and tracking of pupil progress
- To move leadership, management and governance from good to outstanding
- To continue to develop and implement high quality feed-back to children
- To improve homework and communication with parents (e.g. LaunchPad)

The on-going priorities, as always, seek to maintain our outstanding OfSTED rating for safeguarding, pupil behaviour and health & safety. We are also paying considerable attention to staff induction and premises maintenance.

**School Self-Review: Parents' Questionnaire:** I will not go into details except to say that the vast majority of parents agree that RCFS is an excellent, well-led school where children are safe and happy and enjoy learning. As usual, opinions differ about homework. Most think it's fine, and disagreement is split equally between 'too much' and 'too little'. The full results are on the RCFS web-site as is a link to OfSTED's Parent View, which confirms our findings.

[www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk)



**Summary:** We have had another busy year but have negotiated it without any problems. Our performance results show an improvement on last year's, which were already good. We have coped financially with a tight budget and have the full staffing across the year groups for which we have always aimed. We are expecting to deal effectively with whatever the next academic year brings. We would not be in this position if it was not for skilled and dedicated staff; enthusiastic and effective governors; and supportive parents. We also have children with an appetite for learning, without which we could not hope to succeed. I wish to thank them all for their contributions.

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

Finally, a particular mention for Lynda Farrington who won the UNISON Outstanding Contribution Award (and £300 for RCFS) for her exemplary work as a Teaching Assistant in RCFS.

**Footnote:** I have decided not to dwell on the outcome of the LA Uttoxeter Schools Review (2-tier vs. 3-tier) which, had it favoured 2-tier would have improved RCFS finances, given us total control over Key Stage 2; and allowed our children to have another two years in a school they so obviously love.

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

## Youth Initiative

### **Another year of change**

In April 2014 Staffordshire County Council decided to close Staffordshire Youth Service and make all staff redundant. During the next 8 months the Council sent 3 letters to every Young person who had had involvement with any youth club across the county keeping them abreast of the unfolding situation until finally all staff were made redundant on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. We – the volunteers, had long decided to continue with our youth club which is to the best of our knowledge the only youth club now operating in the County.

So we now had 3 issues to content with:-

Successive unsolicited letter from SCC had undermined us and the number of young people attending the youth club on a weekly basis had significantly reduced over an 8 month period and we now had to effectively start again.

If we wanted professional youth worker support and training on an ongoing basis then we would need to be able to pay for it therefore we had to undertake a major fundraising exercise and work out how we would fund ourselves into the future.

And

Finally we had to affiliate ourselves with an organisation which could help us ongoing with everything from Insurance cover through to CRB checks.

I am happy to say that all of these issues were resolved

We currently have 23 youth club members all between 11 and 17 year of age.

We have had lots of new faces attending over the last 2 months – a direct response to our mail shot, directly canvassing local schools and the inclusion of a piece in the Bromley Bulletin.

The majority of young people are between 12 and 15 years of age.

The last 4 weeks have seen average attendances of 19 young people with circa. 2 new members a week.

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

## **Funding**

We have received support and funding from various sources during the year, these include:

Abbots Bromley Parish Council  
Abbots Bromley United Charities  
Abbots Bromley Cricket Club  
Abbots Bromley Village Hall

We have also run funding events, which include a stall at the Horn Dance and our Family Fun Day in December, for which we secured seed funding from Starbucks.

We have also secured funding to support the further improvement to the five-a-side football (see details below).

We generate some income from our weekly subscriptions and our own tuck shop (which the young people now manage).

## **Locally Planned Events**

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

- Organised a family fun day seed funded through Starbucks
- Held two consecutive discos (for different age ranges)
- Organise additional Youth Club meetings on Wednesday afternoons during the Summer and Easter holidays . Planned and organised “Cooking for all” evenings on alternate Youth club evening from September onwards

and

- Purchasing/purloined addition equipment

We run the Youth Club to provide open activities for our young people, but we also plan sessions to include periodic enrichment activities, these may often be around calendar events.

### **Wish list**

The five-a-side pitch has been extremely well used since it was opened in April 2010 – we have now secured funding of £1,520 to extend the artificial turf of which we have got £760 from ESBC (Thanks Greg), £380 from ABPC and £380 from ABVH Trustees.

Once the purchase of Gallimore`s field is finally completed it would be great if the grass could be regularly cut then it would be a great extension to our existing facility and a great open space for all young people in our village to use.

### **Summary**

Whatever we are doing the young people seem to be happy with our efforts despite the challenges we have had to deal with, particularly in the last six months.

Our volunteers, of which we have 9, (from 4) are wonderful and we have retained the services of Gemma Lanchester who was previously employed by Staffordshire Youth Services.

We have appointed a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Child Protection Officer and now hold regular management meetings.

Our aim has always been to keep our funds in excess of our annual expenditure (nominally our Village Hall fees) to ensure we have a reasonable buffer and can provide continuity for our young people over a foreseeable period. (It cost us £1,462 last year for the Village Hall alone).

We are extremely grateful for those who continue to support us both within and beyond the village, your financial contributions are critical to our survival, but even the contributions of materials (books, gifts, etc.) are appreciated, which enable us to fund raise. We would as always appreciate any financial or other contributions from any appropriate source.

### **Finally**

We are always looking for volunteers

Volunteering need only be for as little as 2½ hours per month (1 evening a month)

Anybody interested should phone me on 07787536381 for more detail

Please come and support us on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> May, we will be running an afternoon tea and book sale at Church House (11am till 3pm)

**P Ryan, AB 4 Youth**

## **STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UTTOXETER RURAL DIVISION – REPORT 2015**

While the general, borough and parish elections are in full swing, it is half way through the county council election cycle and a lot has been happening.

While still focusing on local matters as your County Councillor, I continue as Leader of the County Council with several other roles on the council's behalf such as the Local Government Pension Scheme, Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Board, Joint Transformation Board with the NHS. I also represent Staffordshire on the County Council Network and am a Member of the Local Government Association People and Place Board and the Cabinet Office's National Growth Board. A busy life as I still farm at Abbey Fields in Rocester. This is a snap shot of the past 24 months.

### **The Staffordshire Economy**

Everyone agrees and understands that people in gainful employment are healthier, safer and less crime is committed, which in turn reduces the pressures on vital public services. Unemployment in Staffordshire measured by Job Seekers Allowance is 1.1 per cent and touched 0.9 per cent last December- which brings fresh challenges to recruitment in certain sectors, including the council.

To answer that challenge the county council continues with its innovative approach to transforming the way public services are delivered. By reducing back-office costs, working more closely with partners, reviewing contracts, and looking at new ways of providing or funding services, with the savings made across the county council it has been possible to do more. The way people want to live their lives is changing. Councils need to change with them.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Lowest County Council Tax in the Country**

I am mindful the County Council has the largest part of your Council Tax. While the country remains under financial pressure as the public spending deficit is reduced, trying to keep spending the same as or less than we earn, the county council faces added pressures. These come from the growing cost of social care both for older people and vulnerable children.

With a modest 1.95 per cent increase resulting in a Band D council tax of £1,047.28, Staffordshire now has the next to lowest county council tax in the country, only Hampshire is lower. Council tax has been held at the same level or reduced for the past four years. There is also good news in the county council budget as it includes an additional £20 million investment for social care for vulnerable adults and children, with no change in the schools' crossing patrols service or street lighting at night.

### **Facts about Staffordshire's Low unemployment and economic growth**

In Staffordshire there are 1.1 per cent of the working population on job seeker's allowance, average annual earnings have increased by £2,125 from £23,146 in 2009 to £25,271 in 2013 and job numbers have increased from 365,000 to 374,000. "Better times" has put £750m into our local economy in extra spending power, 16 per cent more people have better paid jobs - up from 149,000 to 173,000. There has been a 24% drop in the levels of out-of-work benefits claimants and business start-ups increased to 2,865 a year.

Staffordshire's Powerhouse Central Growth Deal with government has now been increased by £15.4 million to just under £100 million.

Over the lifetime of the Growth Deal 2015-2021 it is estimated that 7,000 new jobs could be created, 1,000 new homes built, and another £70 million of public and private investment attracted

to the county. The new key projects include: £2.5m to support creation of an “Enterprise Quarter” in Tamworth, £800,000 refurbishment of London Mill in Leek for employment and housing, £1.29m for Improvements to Rugeley Town Centre, £2.2 m Regeneration of Friarsgate in Lichfield for retail and leisure

### **Extra Care and Flexi Care for Independent Supported Living**

Older people in Staffordshire are getting access to more independent, supported living than in any other county in England. Staffordshire currently has 19 extra care housing schemes in operation, giving older people and people with disabilities the opportunity to live independently. Since 2009 Staffordshire has created 1,500 new places in extra care housing.

Staffordshire is already the number one county for extra care housing provision in the country, with two schemes newly opened in Cannock and Stafford and a further 10 schemes planned, including in Uttoxeter.

£3.3million has been invested into the latest five schemes by the county council, attracting a further £47 million from housing trusts and other partners to help build them. With 80,000 out of a population of 350,000 in Staffordshire over the age of 75, there is increased demand for homes specially designed to meet the needs of older people and those with disabilities.

### **Plan that will Sustain the Future of all our 43 Libraries**

Uttoxeter Library remains virtually unchanged as a library. Elsewhere volunteers will now take a greater role in running 23 libraries, but supported by paid library staff. Plans have been approved for an overhaul of the library service, which will save £1.3 million or 5 per cent of the budget. Visits have declined by almost 12 per cent over the past three years and issues of physical books have reduced by 19 per cent, while online loans doubled in the past 12 months. The council originally proposed to transfer 24 libraries to community groups, but concerns were raised that this would result in some facilities closing. And the purpose of the public consultation in the face of reducing demand for library services was to create a service relevant and sustainable to communities for the next 10, 15 or 20 years.

### **Locally JCB Announced Last Year they are to Invest £150 million**

JCB is extending their operations in Staffordshire, creating an extra 2,500 jobs by 2018. The ambitious plans for expansion include two new purpose-built factories; a new in-house training facility and office accommodation have been approved by ESBC. This will create 2,500 jobs, most of which will be in Staffordshire plus 7,500 new jobs in the supply chain. The investment plan includes a new 350,000 square feet factory for JCB Cab Systems at Beamhurst, an additional 126,000 square feet of manufacturing space at Rocester, new JCB Finance building and a new 220,000 square feet factory at Cheadle. Besides local, this is both national and regional importance. Work is already under way on a Ryder Cup standard golf course at Rocester.

### **Government Funds Improvements to the A50**

The government will fund improvements to the A50 as part of the updated National Infrastructure Plan. The A50 improvement work, announced in the Government’s autumn statement to be delivered by the County Council, will start this year and will support “local growth, jobs and housing.” Anyone who uses the A50 regularly will understand the need to improve these junctions on a key link road for several major employers and attractions in the area, including JCB, Alton Towers, and Uttoxeter Racecourse with Toyota and Rolls Royce who will all benefit. Two phases have been out to consultation and plans passed for Phase A.

### **Stramshall to Spath**

It is 12 months since the speed limit extension at Spath and the last part of the traffic calming is to be put in place as part of the new JCB factory conditions. This will deter motorists from taking a short cut from the B5030 to Beamhurst. The six lanes planned on the A50 improvements between the two projects should provide a better way of getting there in the future.

## **Pinch Point Funding for Highways**

The Government pinch point funding SCC secured has improved our highways locally with three roundabouts at Rocester and Denstone on the A50-Rocester corridor to JCB and Alton Towers. Additional funding has been allocated by SCC to this busy route. Other schemes are progressing such as at Beaconside in Stafford.

## **Exciting New Prospects for Education in Rocester**

Outline planning has been given for a new school off Ashbourne Road Rocester to replace the existing Ryecroft CE Middle School opposite JCB. This would allow the Rocester-based firm to consider building a University Campus on the Ryecroft site.

This is an exciting opportunity for education in and around Rocester. It will mean local children get new and improved facilities in which to learn, while at the same time making a key site available for further skills expansion.

## **Superfast Staffordshire Website Shows When New Broadband Will Arrive**

Householders and businesses in East Staffordshire can find out exactly which areas will be getting faster internet speeds—the first communities benefiting now. You can find when and where the faster fibre broadband will be available at the Superfast Staffordshire website [www.superfaststaffordshire.co.uk/](http://www.superfaststaffordshire.co.uk/)

The ambitious programme sees the laying of more than one million metres of fibre optic cable and more than 500 new superfast broadband street-side cabinets across the county. By 2016, 97 per cent of homes and businesses (roughly 472,000 premises) will have access to superfast broadband. A further 2 per cent will have access to fibre-based broadband with the remainder having improved speeds using existing technology. The project is a partnership between Staffordshire County Council - which has invested nearly £8 million - and BT, which has invested £12.47 million. A further £7.4 million is being invested by the Government's Broadband Delivery UK.

## **Work to Start on New £7 million Innovation Centre at Keele University**

Work will start in May on a multi-million pound state-of-the art innovation centre for existing high growth businesses and new companies locating to Staffordshire. It is the first new facility of its kind to be built on this scale in the area for 10 years thanks to a partnership between Staffordshire County Council and Keele University. The £7 million centre will provide 30,000 sq. ft. of office and workshop accommodation and is expected to create 130 jobs via the growth of existing business and inward investment from international business relocating Staffordshire.

## **Welcome to the Staffordshire Marketplace**

The Staffordshire Marketplace is an online directory of local care, support and wellbeing services, activities and events across Staffordshire aimed at the whole family at [www.staffordshiremarketplace.co.uk/](http://www.staffordshiremarketplace.co.uk/)

Launched by Staffordshire County Council the Staffordshire Marketplace makes it easier for people to find and access support and wellbeing services from hundreds of organisations, all in one place. With just a few clicks of a button, you can browse, compare, book and buy activities.

## **Largest integration of health and social care in the UK**

Three years ago the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust was created with social care staff 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 opportunities. Removing duplication and streamlining the delivery of integrated care saved £24 million in costs to reinvest in care services. This is about improving the experience of citizens while making best use of tax payers' money.

### **Casserole Club**

A Staffordshire community meal sharing project is encouraging people to think about their older neighbours. Casserole Club helps local people share extra portions of their home cooked meals with other adults, like older people who may experience difficulty in cooking for themselves and also may feel lonely.

Research shows us more than 50 per cent of those over 80 years of age in the UK are lonely. This same research also suggests that malnutrition amongst older people is increasing, which most of the time is preventable.

Staffordshire's Casserole Club currently has 56 cooks signed up and 48 diners. Joining Casserole Club is easy and can be done at [www.casseroleclub.com](http://www.casseroleclub.com) or by calling 0300 111 8006. The website has a simple search engine so that once an application is confirmed it is easy for nearby diners and cooks to find each other.

### **Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS)**

SCVYS is a charitable company limited by guarantee committed to supporting excellent outcomes for children and young people in the county since being established in 1982. Through a Service Level Agreement grant arrangement with Staffordshire County Council, SCVYS provides support services to over 100 voluntary youth organisations delivering in over 700 places.

They are seeking to create a dynamic voluntary youth sector demonstrated by strong organisations run by capable people who are meaningfully engaged in effective partnership working providing safe environments which enable young people to maximise their personal potential.

Between 2011 and 2013 overall participation in SCVYS member organisations rose by 4.5 per cent to over 36,000 children and young people aged 5-25. The average attendance has also risen by 3 per cent to over 19,000. Volunteer levels have grown by 25 per cent to almost 6,000, whilst the number of paid workers has risen from 94 to 253, most of whom are part time/sessional staff.

More details at [www.staffscvys.org.uk](http://www.staffscvys.org.uk)

### **North Midlands NHS Trust**

The decision to dissolve Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust means it is absolutely crucial that all partners involved in the NHS now pull together and deliver what is best for the health economy of Staffordshire. The trust, as it stood, was both financially and clinically unstable, and as a county council we have always recognised the difficult challenge facing the trust special administrators, and I think they have acknowledged this. There are still significant concerns over the financial fragility of the whole Staffordshire health economy and the wider impact this decision will have, especially as Staffordshire has been identified as one of 11 financially challenged health economies.

### **A515 and HCVs**

With economic growth comes traffic and the issue of Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) and I have been in extensive discussions to find a solution to issues around HCVs using the A515 as a shortcut from the A50 to the A38.

This is not proving as easy as it sounds, as alongside powers come duties. The trunk road network, including the A50 and the A38, carries the majority of HCVs through Staffordshire. However the A515 also forms part of the country's Primary Route Network and provides an important sub regional route that facilitates the direct and efficient movement of people, goods and services; contributing to the economic prosperity of the area.

The county council has a range of powers and duties as the Local Highway Authority including the power to prohibit or restrict HCVs from using certain routes and the power to reclassify a route; but this sits alongside a duty to secure the movement of traffic ensuring efficient use of the network.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 places a duty on the county council to ensure traffic can move quickly and freely on its own highway network and that of nearby local highway authorities. The county council and Highways Agency has agreed emergency diversion routes in place along the A515 in the event of a closure on the A38. It is not possible to divert non-motorway traffic onto the higher class motorway network during such a closure. The A515 is also a national priority route for high sided vehicles.

Having acknowledged the position, the county council is committed to engaging with and empowering local communities, placing great emphasis on the insight parish councils and community groups can bring when developing both wider strategic policies and more local bespoke improvements. The County Council has a difficult balancing act taking account of these views while assessing, reviewing and maintaining the highway network and take account of all traffic flows and the local context of roads.

Proactive re-directing of HCV traffic from the A515 would be difficult to enforce and could ultimately lead to a concentration of HCV flows in other localities, making the situation even worse for those affected communities.

If we take a more holistic approach, we should support initiatives such as local product sourcing, the promotion of rail freight, better working practices such as load-sharing and back-loading, and working with the Highways Agency to ensure journey time reliability on the motorway and trunk road network. We should also provide strategic advice to the Planning Authority regarding the location of future employment and industrial development sites

I have continued to press for additional deterrents on top of the traffic lights on Dove Bridge and the speed cameras in Draycott. These measures would be in the form of average speed cameras on the A515, village gateways and better access from the A38 to Fradley. The aim is to deter HCVs by hindrance and delay from using the A515 while improving access on the A50 and A38.

### **Uttoxeter School Review**

In 2014 Staffordshire County Council sought the views of people in Uttoxeter with regards to the provision of future school places in the town and the surrounding villages.

The county council has a legal responsibility to ensure that there are enough places in local schools for Uttoxeter's children when they need them and we all want every child to have access to one that is good or outstanding.

Because of the creation of new jobs and better transport links fuelling the area's growth, the anticipated level of housing development in the area requires the county council to increase the number of available school places by 930, or 29 per cent, by 2021.

Considering the scale of this challenge and the significant level of potential investment required, SCC took the opportunity to open a period of information sharing and dialogue with schools and the community. This was ahead of any need for formal consultation, so people could consider the two main options for change and feed their views into the decision making process.



Option A proposed to extend the existing three tier school system (in first, middle and high schools) and Option B proposed a new two tier school system across the Uttoxeter pyramid of schools (in primary and secondary schools).

Both of these early options had several advantages and disadvantages and public opinion has raised some interesting questions and debate.

Whilst the majority of the feedback we received from parents and the community was in support of maintaining a three-tier system, several concerns were expressed, some inherent in both options, which was useful. Those concerns included: disruption during the period of change, the optimum size of a school, how to sustain its long-term financial sustainability and the best way to deliver strong school performance.

Feedback was received from each of the school governing bodies in the Uttoxeter school pyramid and although more were in favour of retaining the three tier system than moving to a two-tier system, the majority did not express a preference for either.

Given the level of costs associated with both Option A and Option B, the clear benefits and risks of both options and the importance of having the support of both the public and affected schools in implementing any managed system wide change, the county council will support schools' independence. It will not seek to implement a two-tier schools system across the Uttoxeter schools pyramid.

The county council will still need to ensure that schools are ready to accommodate Uttoxeter's growing population. It will support head teachers and school governors in individual schools to be ready for the future, as and when the need arises.

In the short-medium term, this means that the county will continue with plans to provide a single building in Rocester that will house Ryecroft Middle School (from 2016) and Dove First School (from 2019).

If housing developments continue as currently planned, there will also be a phased need to find places for an additional two classes per year group, across the area, beginning in 2018.

Negotiations with housing developers at the Parks Farm site will continue to see the development of a new school to accommodate the children from families moving to this new estate by 2020.

### **Ellastone Traffic Issues**

Accidents have been happening heading towards Ashbourne out of Ellastone at Tit Bridge. Road signs have been enhanced at Tit Bridge to further forewarn motorists, with the original signs being replaced with highly visible yellow backed warning signs which now incorporate supplementary plates. On each approach these are; hump back bridge warning sign with "REDUCE SPEED NOW" followed by road narrows warning sign with "Oncoming vehicles in middle of road" legend. Additional chevron signs have also been installed on the bridge, with a bright yellow boarder, although due to the constraints of insufficient verge width, these have had to be reduced in size from the proposed and placed on a single pole.

The white lines have also been remarked and SLOW marking installed adjacent to each of the advanced warning signs. The accident history is NOT coming down the steep hill from Calwich.

A Speed Indicator Device was out on the 29<sup>th</sup> October in Ellastone again which found on the B5032, where there is a 40 mph speed restriction that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds was 44mph over a two-hour daytime period.

Reducing the speed limit to 30 mph has been looked at but this would require additional measures to ensure compliance with a cost which could not be justified on the grounds of safety. Any 30 mph limit should only be associated with urban developed areas and villages; the section to the north of Ellastone towards the bridge would not be suitable for inclusion in a 30 mph limit due to its rural setting remote from the village.

It is obvious this is down to driver behaviour and no doubt you will have read about “Arnie” the dummy police officer. Given the level of interest and the petition, there should be no shortage of willing volunteers for a community speed watch. Details of Community Speed Watch are at:

[www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch](http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch)

## **Infrastructure Plus**

Staffordshire County Council has named Amey as preferred bidder for its innovative, new Infrastructure+ contract. The pioneering deal is the first of its kind. Amey will manage and maintain the county’s highways infrastructure, while also allowing scope for the council to bolt-on a wider range of local services into the collaborative partnership.

Other local authorities in the region may also be given the option of joining. This industry pathfinder partnership will run for 10 years, with the option to extend for a further 10 years, and is worth up to £80m per year.

This is a unique opportunity to work with the county council to develop a relationship that will enhance services for the people of Staffordshire. It will place a strong focus on supporting and investing in the local community for many years to come, to promote prosperity and skills across the county.

Amey can deliver top quality services and we have been hugely impressed with their innovative partnership approach, commitment to apprenticeships and training and willingness to really involve local communities.

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/Homepage.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/Homepage.aspx)

The reporting of fault can now be done in many ways including an app called My Staffs [apps.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportfault/#top](http://apps.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportfault/#top)

## **Ironman 70.3 Event in June**

Staffordshire has won a bid to host the 70.3 mile Ironman competition for three years starting June 2015. The Ironman competition is a long distance triathlon which takes place all over the world and is a world champion qualifier.

Globally, Ironman has around 200,000 competitors. They will take part in a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike ride and a 13.1 mile run with a supporting 2 million spectators to cheer them along.

This global event looks to incorporate three of Staffordshire’s main tourist attractions; Shugborough, Chasewater and Cannock Chase.

- Potential spends of £1.4 million being spent on food and accommodation in the area.
- Spectators spending around £1 million whilst visiting Ironman
- Around £180,000 on sourcing local suppliers
- An estimated £273,000 is spent in the area on course reces and training camps throughout the whole year

In total the event looks to bring in a generated total spend of £2.7 million.

For more information on the event taking visit the Enjoy Staffordshire website.

[www.enjoystaffordshire.com/](http://www.enjoystaffordshire.com/)

## **Entrust and School Catering and Ground Services**

Entrust constantly explores ways to continue to improve the services they offer and develop in a sustainable way for schools and other non-school customers like any good business.

Entrust has undertaken a soft market testing exercise on catering, cleaning and grounds services to see whether a specialist partner organisation could be appointed to act as a sub-contractor to Entrust to deliver best value to schools.

Following a successful procurement process, Entrust has appointed a preferred bidder called Chartwells, part of Compass Group UK and Ireland, which will go live on 1 June 2015.

This deal will deliver:

- Improvements in the range and quality of Entrust's already highly-regarded services for schools. These include curriculum activities and events, nutrition smart-boards, community cookery classes, on-line and cashless payment wherever appropriate in the Catering Service. Other benefits are improvements in cleaning technology in addition to a more bio-diverse use of school grounds for teaching, learning, growing and training
- An ambitious growth target of contracting with another 160 schools, enabling Entrust to grow as a business and give stability and opportunity for staff
- Continued commitment to local suppliers and ambition to grow this through Entrust's existing Staffordshire relationships
- Commitment to maintain the Silver Food For Life quality standard
- Further investment in people, skills, training and career development through Chartwells' FM Academy, building on successes to date
- Significant numbers of school placements and apprenticeships for young people in Staffordshire.

Entrust does all at it can to keep prices low, and price security for schools has been built into the new contractual arrangements.

Entrust is now entering a period of transition, during which time it will consult and engage with staff and unions according to its statutory responsibilities and protocols, and work closely with Chartwells, to ensure a smooth TUPE transfer.

Entrust will continue to work in close collaboration with suppliers, schools and Chartwells through robust contract governance processes to ensure that service quality remains high. Local produce will have a higher profile than ever under the new contract.

More information can be found at [www.compass-group.co.uk/primary-schools-and-local-authorities.htm](http://www.compass-group.co.uk/primary-schools-and-local-authorities.htm)

## **Skills with Career Advice and Thoughts for the Future**

It is all very well creating better paid jobs but it is vital Staffordshire people have the skills to do the work and share in the benefits which will flow.

With the Local Enterprise Partnership an Education Trust has been formed to ensure our children and young people get the best start in life and receive a good education. Staffordshire is a skills pilot with 5 per cent of college funds kept back until the Local Enterprise Partnership is satisfied the skills our young people attain fit the needs of business.

Independent advice and guidance is the key to helping support our children choose the right course for their future needs. This is needed at an ever younger age as we have a wide choice before them from apprenticeships to graduate pathways. What is the right pathway will vary from child to child.

## Snapshot of ongoing work

- **Transport** – concessionary free bus travel package 24/7 for older people and the disabled and over 34,000 young people have taken advantage of discounted travel for just £1 per journey to travel around the county.
- **Libraries** –we have kept all libraries open and all 43 libraries are community resource centres encouraging more people to use them.
- **Efficient waste management**— W2R is completed and will deliver major savings to the tax payer over the next decade, up to £250 million. Veolia operates the new Waste to Energy Plant at Four Ashes. This project, the largest ever undertaken by the council at the time will save its cost many times over its 25-year lifetime from avoiding paying Landfill Tax and from energy generation.
- **Volunteering** – VAST are there to help a genuine and comprehensive partnership making volunteering 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 25 per cent nationally.
- **Staffordshire highways network** —£50 million has been invested in road reconstruction over five years.
- **Road safety** —we are the second safest county in the country
- **Staffordshire Business Support Fund**—a £2m loans fund for small businesses has helped over 400 small businesses
- **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.
- **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 400 young people into work and support other organisations who wish to take on apprentices.
- **Invested in Automatic Number Plate Recognition**, Staffordshire crime levels are down
- **Taken a tough stance on quarrying and large scale wind turbines**, to stop intrusive development in our countryside.

Locally last year's **Staffordshire Local Community Fund** went to (£):

Mayfield & Ellastone Community First Responder	1,000.00
Rocester & District Camera Club	500.00
Wootton Cricket Club	500.00
Talbot First School Kingstone	134.00
Bramshall News Sheet	500.00
Abbots Bromley Hospital	500.00
Kingstone Church PCC -St John the Ba ...	250.00
Carers Association Southern Stafford ...	385.00
Draycott in the Clay Parish Council	939.00
Rocester Parish Council	1,000.00
Marchington Community Shop	700.00

Mayfield Memorial Hall	600.00
Katharine House Hospice	700.00
Dove Valley ASC	500.00
Rocester Parish Council	250.00
Friends of Stafford Samaritans	200.00
Army Cadet Force -Uttoxeter	0.00
Marchington Village Hall	1,000.00
Stanton Village Hall	342.00

Funds had to be spent by March 31 and unfortunately the Armed Cadet Force was unable to spend the money so I reallocated their £500.00 to Katherine House Hospice. If anyone wants to apply for funding from this year's £10,000 for local schemes, the forms are available from the County Website.

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.

Philip Atkins

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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.

<p><b>Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday, 14th May 2014 at the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given</b></p>
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Present: Cllr R Jarman, M Allaker, S Woodhouse, J Down, J Barratt, M Hoddy, S Kieley, R Walkeden, Cllr C Cook, T Wheeldon, L Coates, M Crittenden, R Crittenden, Cllr K Johns, K Johns, A Elkington, D Richards, R Birch, D Wharton, M Shaw, J Hough, A Fox, L Fox, Cllr G Hall, Cllr P Ryan, M Williams, Cllr D Burrows, P Roy, Cllr E Roy, A Blower, Cllr R Bell, H Davis, A Knipe, Cllr P Charles, M Tonking, J Dace, Cllr M Moore, Cllr P Atkins.

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Meads – Parish Clerk

Apologies: Mr D Moore

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

Cllr R Jarman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Jarman read out some highlights from his annual report which had already been circulated. In addition he mentioned the changes to the bus service and explained that these had been changed as they had been calculated on a cost per head. He said that he hoped that Cllr Atkins would be attending the meeting and should be able to answer any questions on this during the Open Forum.

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

The Chairman presented a certificate to the previous year's winners of the Jubilee Cup, Mr Jeff Bradbury and thanked him again for his contribution to the village.

The Chairman presented the Jubilee Cup for 2014 to Mrs Mithra Tonking. He thanked her for all her hard work on the Almshouses restoration project. It was a fantastic achievement. Mrs Tonking thanked the Parish Council for the award.

## **3. Abbots Bromley United Charities**

The accounts of the United Charities were presented. 55 parishioners received monetary gifts during the year and donations were made to the Evergreens, Friendship Group, and the First Responders. The accounts were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

## **4. Parish Council Accounts**

A draft summary of the un-audited accounts for the parish council to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 were tabled.

## **5. Open Forum**

The Chairman invited questions or updates from village groups on any topics relevant to residents within Abbots Bromley:-

Cllr P Ryan provided an update on the Youth Club. He said that in the coming year all youth workers will be made redundant as the service will no longer be funded by the County Council. He also provided an update on funding and how funds are raised (as detailed previously in the report).

Mr T Wheeldon provided an update from Abbots Bromley Sports Association:-

- Trustees of the Sport's Association have formed a Charitable Company. It is anticipated that this will open a few more doors to Grant Aid and further funding initiatives. Once finally registered as a charity organisation we intend to approach local individuals and companies. Current discussions are underway with HMRC in order to investigate the most appropriate way for us to proceed in relation to VAT liability.
- In order to develop a facility within a more reasonable time frame, there has been a need to reduce the costs of building the new pavilion to the original design.

We are now looking to provide a 'built off-site modular construction'. This will considerably reduce the build costs to circa £550,000. Renewal or amendment of our existing planning approval may be required?

- We have approximately £15,000 in our fund account, and our local fund raising initiative continues with a Sportsman's evening planned for November 28<sup>th</sup> 2014 at St George's Park.

£50,000 has been approved by 'Sport England' and an application for a further £50,000 is being formulated for submission to 'Inspired Facilities'.

All our applications are being geared to an intended Start Date for development of Spring 2015.

- In order to ensure that the new facility is 'wholly inclusive' to the entire Community, the Trustees are currently discussing its future Governance requirements.
- Our grateful thanks are extended to Abbots Bromley Parish Council for their continued support of this project, and for their valuable financial contribution to date.

We hope that this close association with us will remain.

- Lastly, and by no means least, our thanks go out to the many well-wishers and supporters from our local community who see this initiative as a great step forward in providing a much needed (and long overdue) recreational and sports facility for this generation and for generations to come.

Cllr Ryan provided an update on Gallimore's Field. He said that access to a grant will help make improvements and manage the field. He said that they were still waiting for agreement on the 'ransom strip' which is needed to ensure access to the field.

Mrs M Allaker said that the changes to the bus service were causing all sorts of problems as people could no longer get to Lichfield. She stressed that passengers had not been informed of the changes until just beforehand.

Mrs Blower highlighted the poor parking on Paget Rise. The Clerk agreed to report this to the PCSO.

Mrs Woodhouse asked about a larger post box. Cllr Hall and The Clerk reported that they had both been working on trying to get a larger post box in the village.

Mr Wheeldon applauded the work on 20 is Plenty scheme. The big issue that is now going to hit the community is the volume of traffic with the development of HS2. He asked what is going to be the PC's response to this.

Mr Fox said that he attended the meeting on HS2 and he highlighted that there is a petition that can be completed but this needs to be submitted in person by 23<sup>rd</sup> May. He summarised what reasons you could petition on and main grounds for the village would be traffic. Need to register the problems that large vehicles are causing in the village and damage to roads. Mr Fox continued and said that the volume of traffic will be a big issue as there will be a depot at Fradley with 1200 lorry movements a day. He said that there will be environmental issues with the trains as some elevations will be quite high so you will be able to see and hear it. There will be up to 18 trains per hour.

Cllr R Jarman said that we must end in a petition if this can be done in time and we must keep people informed via the Bromley Bulletin.

#### **Cllr Atkins joined the meeting.**

Mrs Allaker said that she and many others were very unhappy about how the consultation was conducted for the changes to the bus service. There was a lack of communication and this left a lot of people with problems.

Cllr Atkins responded and explained that the Needwood Connect dial-up service should help to connect to Lichfield. He agreed that the consultation period was too short and did not reach enough people. He said that the more use the dial-up service gets the more chance there will be of getting extra buses.

Mr Richards asked why yellow lines had not been put on the Goat corner. Cllr Hall explained why yellows had not been put there as the white lines that are already in place should do the same job and stop people from parking there.

Cllr Atkins explained that PCSOs can not hand out parking tickets.

Cllr Jarman mentioned that for the Dolphin Lane development Highways didn't bother to come and visit the site to ascertain the suitability of the access. It was all done on a computer model.

Cllr Hall reported that ESBC are in an excellent financial position at the moment and that there would be no increase in Council Tax, however, he did highlight that the Conservatives are no longer in control so not sure about financial responsibility for the future. He said that there had been discussions about ESBC charging for brown bins. He also confirmed that it would not be allowed that Ivy House is allowed to appear as a different building.

Many residents mentioned the state of the road and pot holes and that the roads just seemed to be getting worse. Cllr Atkins said that they just needed to be reported via the Highways Hotline and a job number would be issued and work would prioritised and be carried out when resources allow. The Clerk explained that this is how she reports all road repair problems but often they do not get done. Mr Wheeldon said may be should try another strategy if this is not working. The Clerk suggested that they more people that report problems the more likely that they are to get fixed.

With no more questions the Cllr R Jarman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm..

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