

Annual Report



May 2017
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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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 2017 ***Bromley Bulletin*** distributed to all households in the parish.

Also available on-line

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

Council Members and Officer – 2016/17

Council Members

- Adela Appleby 840169
- Philip Charles 840251
- John Houlihan 07903 214325
- Roger Jarman 840678
- Michelle Moore 840280 - CHAIRMAN
- Rosamund Robb 840599
- Phil Ryan 840019
- Adele Wakefield 840128
- Bryn Walters 840976 - VICE CHAIRMAN

Officer:-

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

WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Working Groups

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

Working Group	Member(s)
Competitions	The Clerk, Adela Appleby
Finance/Grants	Cllrs P Charles, P Ryan and A Wakefield
Newsletter	Cllr R Jarman The Clerk(Editor) Cllr P Charles (Distribution)
Planning	All Councillors
Recreation	Cllrs Charles, P Ryan, R Robb, J Houlihan
Traffic & Parking	Cllrs Charles, R Jarman, Mrs Robb,
Village Property	Cllrs Charles, A Wakefield, R Robb
Neighbourhood Planning Group	Cllrs B Walters, P Ryan, R Robb

Representatives

Almhouses	Cllr Jarman
Finance Officer	Cllr Mrs A Wakefield
Schools	Cllr B Walters
United Charities	Cllrs Charles and P Ryan
Village Hall	Cllr P Ryan
ABSA	Cllr P Ryan

Reports to the Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday, 24th May 2017 7.00 pm At the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley

Introduction: We have a number of written statements for the Parish Assembly this year and a verbal statement from our Borough Councillor Greg Hall. This document contains the reports submitted in advance of the assembly, and questions on the contents may be asked during the open forum. Additional reports will be added after the meeting.

Contents:

Parish Council Report	Cllr Michelle Moore
Parish Council Finance	The Clerk
Village Hall Report	Mr Simon Wilson
Community First Responders	Mr R Stevenson
Richard Clarke First School	Mr John Hough
Youth Initiative	Cllr Phil Ryan
Staffordshire County Councillor's Report	Cllr Philip Atkins
East Staffordshire Borough Councillor's Report	Cllr Greg Hall – to be provided at the meeting.
Parish Council Financial Statement	To be added
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2016	The Clerk

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Planning – continuing from Cllr Jarman's report in 2016:

Ashbrook Lane: This continued to be an issue in 2016 with the fortunate outcome that the appeal for the 80 house development being withdrawn by the developer. This was probably as a result of the ESBC borough-wide plan being agreed by Central Government and a number of appeals being rejected nationally.

ESBC Borough-wide Plan. This, alongside the village plan being agreed by ESBC gives the parish slightly more hope with regard to planning applications, however this is not always the case, as can be seen with the planning approval granted at Kentilee, Ashbrook Lane. Land availability becomes more of an issue for the parish later on in the plan cycle when approved plans are sometimes held back by developers hoping to 'flush out' further sites for development. As ever, the Parish Council will be vigilant on all planning application matters, however, it is important to note that the Parish Council can only object on what are deemed to be legitimate grounds.

Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan. We will have an update from Cllr Walters this evening in his capacity as Chair for this forum. Just one point of note is that the 40 new houses the Parish Council accepted could be delivered for development at market price within the village plan are separate to those which could potentially be delivered as part of the neighbourhood plan which would more closely meet the needs identified in the neighbourhood plan survey. Bryn. I'm sure, will be available to respond to any and all your queries in this regard, least of all to update following our recent meeting regarding transport needs and potential site development.

Abbots Bromley School Development

The School recently sold some of its residential properties on the High Street to a private developer. The plans have been approved and as I'm sure everyone is aware, work has started on the development. This has caused quite some disruption with temporary traffic lights inhibiting flow throughout the village. This wasn't helped when these failed to operate effectively! Fortunately, these have now been removed.

Lichfield Road Developments

Both our County and Borough Councillors have recently supported the extension of the 30 miles an hour speed restriction past the planned ABSA Sports Area on Lichfield Road, which the Parish Council are very grateful for.

One of the two proposed developments is growing with the second, closest to the village not yet having commenced. The Parish Council have been vocal in ensuring the planning approval which determined a footpath on the development side of the hedge is retained. Each amendment to plans removes this external to the development. Anyone who has walked down Lichfield Road will know there is no space at all for a footpath on the roadside.

Gapstile, agricultural development for turkeys

The Borough Council passed this development which will impact a number of local residents despite considerable objection. The shed has now been constructed, although there are no inhabitants as yet.

Best Kept Village – The Village had a Spring Tidy recently with a number of volunteers helping to tidy up the Village Green, the Church Yard, all Play Areas, cleaning benches, weeding, litter picking, It was especially gratifying for me that some individuals took responsibility for areas close to their homes. Mark Hurst Senior and Geoff Bradbury have taken responsibility for the Bus Shelter opposite Top Shop and have removed graffiti and painted with Roger Rooke regularly litter picking that area. With Cllr Appleby's enthusiastic lead we have had many residents supporting not only the Spring Tidy, but also the Wednesday evening meets to ensure we are kept spruce for judging. Thank you to everyone supporting our cause - it's not just for BKV, but because we want to live in a fabulous community, which I'm sure you agree we do! The only disappointment is that the Goose Lane Bus Shelter seems to lose both its BKV and Children's posters regularly - seemingly coinciding with the Oldfields/Alleynes buses.

Bromley Bulletin – This year we published in August, October, and February (with the Neighbourhood flyer).

Christmas Tree – Again, our thanks to the Brandrick family for donating an excellent tree, Cllr Charles in particular is hopeful that our own tree on the Green is nearly tall enough to support the fairy lights. .

Parish Council Surgeries. These bi-monthly surgeries continued on the Saturday prior to the PC meeting. As previously noted, the public attendance is not great, but we hope that those that have needed to discuss a problem have found them useful.

Traffic and Parking: The Parish Council continue to receive occasional problems with regard to Traffic and Parking and again I would note that if anyone seen cars parked badly or other driving issues our local Police advise calling them immediately on 101 so that they can respond. Particular issues have been noted by construction traffic parking opposite AB School which narrows the road to a single carriageway which is problematic given the number of farming vehicles we have going through the village. Potential solutions are difficult given the properties being developed are privately owned.

Abbots Bromley Sports Association Development continues on Phase One with appropriate funds raised to complete this stage. A recent ABSA consultation meeting discussed the potential for Phase Two asking for wider support from local sport teams/clubs. Anyone who wishes to be involved in this project would be gratefully received, please contact John Stevenson or any of the other ABSA team directly. The Parish Council continues to support ABSA's efforts when funds allow.

Jubilee Cup 2015/16. Last year's worthy recipient was the Brandrick family, for their unwavering provision of Christmas trees for the Village Green. Going to choose the tree is always a start of Christmas for me, squelching through the wood to pick the best one! Mr Pete Brandrick will now hand back the trophy and receive this certificate as a memento of this award.

New Parish Councillors. The Parish Council have been lucky to welcome 2 new councillors following the retirement of Caroline Ashton and Paul Greenwood. Cllrs John Houlihan and Adela Appleby have been useful recruits, with John taking responsibility for play areas and Adela leading on BKV. Their contribution along with all our councillors is extremely valuable and the work they put in should not be overlooked.

**Cllr Michelle Moore
Parish Council Chairman**

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The parish council has its own Financial Regulations, which set down the rules by which the finances of the council are managed. The council employs an independent internal auditor who reviews the financial records. At the end of the year an audit return is completed and submitted to the Audit Commission for the purposes of external audit. The council's financial regulations can be viewed on the website or via arrangements with the clerk.

The unapproved financial statements for the council for the year to 31st March, 2017 will be tabled at the Parish Assembly.

Sarah Meads
Parish Clerk

ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

The 2016/17 year has been steady for the village hall with no major issues or expenses, however as the building heads towards its 20th anniversary routine maintenance and replacements will no doubt increase and so the need for regular will continue.

Legal work to ensure the continued access and eventual ownership of Gallimores field is still ongoing but the end is in sight.

I would like to thank Adele Wakefield for all the free time she has put into getting the legal agreement in place and we hope it is signed soon. Thank you to the committee for their help and encouragement to keep the hall as a great village asset. Thank you to Maureen Alaker for all her assistance in phoning and writing to various people and preparing the minutes.

Finally to thank Sue Phillipson for all her time and effort she has put in over several years to keep the hall in a position of financial stability during what have been difficult economic times for many small organisations like village halls which need the great efforts of people like Sue and Maureen to keep them running and hopefully prospering.

Simon Wilson, chairman – Abbots Bromley Village Hall Committee

Abbots Bromley Community First Responders

The village CFR team is now only two strong with only 25% of cover being completed each week. Without more individuals from within and from the surrounding areas volunteering to join the team, it will close at a great loss to the local community. The vehicle is being upgraded to meet the latest laws for emergency vehicles with training places available for new members with West Midland Ambulance Service. There has never been a better time to join and become a key life-saving member of your community.

If anyone would like more information then please do contact Robert Stevenson Coordinator
ABCFR
E-Mail: Stevenson20@btinternet.com
Home: 01283 840437
Mobile: 07800849237

Richard Clarke First School Report

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

Financial: The budget for 2017-2018 has been set and it will prove to be extremely challenging. The budget has been balanced by using much more of our reserves than is usual for RCFS. This is not a calamity, since reserves exist to provide exactly this sort of support during times of financial pressure. The key question here is whether the pressure will be transitory or long-term. If it is long-term then we will have to face some difficult decisions in a couple of years' time. We have a budget of about £540,000 of which over 80% are staff costs. This includes classroom teachers and support staff plus administration, premises and supervisory staff. In setting our budget we have planned to maintain the existing staffing structure because it has delivered the high quality of education and pupil care of which RCFS is justly proud. (see OfSTED below)

The current DfE proposals to rebalance school funding across England are probably waiting until after June 8th, but the early responses of most 'experts' are not encouraging. Additional funding is not being offered; it seems merely to be a reallocation of existing funding. However, it is generally considered that even the 'winners' in this process will experience a major budget shortfall within two to three years.

On a more positive note, we have a superb PTFA who continue to raise money for projects in RCFS; a Parish Council who make donations; and an Endowment Fund for which we thank the eponymous Richard Clarke, whose generous initial gift has provided us with centuries of income.

Number of Pupils: We currently have 121 children on our roll and are expecting 29 to enter Early Years in September, with 18 leaving Year 4 at the end of this academic year. We could therefore start 2017/18 with 132 pupils, the largest number for many years, although there could be other movements by September. This should give us a well-balanced number of pupils across all Year Groups and, of course, more revenue from the funding formula. (see Financial above)

Staffing: The staffing structure has been remarkably stable for most of the year and allows us to have a full-time teacher in every class, supported by excellent teaching assistants and, of course, parent helpers. It is this structure which would be most under risk from unmanageable external financial pressures. We have a good range of expert staff skills which we use to share 'best practice' across the school, together with a mentoring programme.

School Performance: In each of last few reports I have highlighted the possibility of a snap OfSTED inspection. It actually arrived a few days into January 2017 when we were all recovering from the Christmas break. The full report is on the school web-site (www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) but here are a few highlights.

The inspector's decision was that RCFS continues to be Good. He said that he had given serious consideration to judging us as Outstanding. This would certainly be achieved once we have raised the standard in mathematics for middle-ability pupils. The inspector agreed that we had already recognised this and it was included as a priority in our Improvement Plan.

He also observed that:-

- The school has gone from strength to strength. The quality of teaching has continued to improve and academic standards have risen.
- The school's routines and procedures for keeping pupils safe are fit for purpose
- The leadership in the school is excellent. It is approachable, good-humoured and very well organised.
- The Reception classroom provides a most stimulating learning environment and teaching in this part of the school is highly effective.

- Good progress continues across the school. Year after year, standards in reading, writing and mathematics have been above average at the end of key stage 1.
- Confidence and effort are much valued qualities at Richard Clarke First School.
- This is a school where pupils are keen to attend, enjoy their lessons, behave well and experience success.
- The supportive attitude of parents, the behaviour of pupils, your attention to safety matters and the quality of governance are also significant strengths

Uttoxeter Learning Trust: It has been widely reported that the schools in the Uttoxeter pyramid, which ultimately feed into Thomas Alleyne's High School (TAHS) are forming a multi-academy trust led by TAHS. RCFS is one of the pyramid schools and would be expected to join, probably by early 2018. This has been 'encouraged' by Staffs LA who, it seems, want to remove themselves from all school funding, except the mandatory obligations of admissions, special needs provision, and school transport. I say 'seems' because some advice received suggests that there is no compulsion upon us to join a MAT. This is reassuring to RCFS governors, and probably parents, who are still to be convinced that RCFS performance, governance, financial management or leadership require the improvement that proponents of academies (e.g. Staffs LA, DfE) claim would be delivered. Whatever we choose to do about joining the Uttoxeter Learning Trust there is no doubt that financial pressures must inevitably be a major influence on our decision, although we do acknowledge, of course, that there could be other benefits. (see Financial above).

Summary: RCFS has an excellent track record for leadership, classroom skills, financial management and governance and it will continue to use these qualities to cope with all pressures, as it has successfully done over the past few years. We deliver an excellent education for our children, in sometimes trying circumstances and, according to the latest OfSTED inspection, have achieved a steady improvement in standards from a level which was assessed as good, five years ago. Almost every school in the country has to face funding challenges and we are in a better position than most to deal with them, although it will not be easy. I wish to offer my thanks to the RCFS leadership and staff at the chalk-face, who continue to deliver excellence despite the hovering spectres of budgetary constraints, 'cost-effectiveness' and 'value for money'; to the parents who support and encourage them; to the governors whose dedicated efforts are crucial; and of course to the children who respond brilliantly to all of the above.

The latest news about The Richard Clarke First School can be found on our web-site (www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk) together with further RCFS details, photographs, staff and governor profiles, OfSTED reports and statistics and other performance information. I would encourage you to visit it.

John Hough
Chair of Governors, Richard Clarke First School

Youth Initiative

2016 has been a year of Development for Abbots Bromley Youth Club.

A Big Thank You for the tremendous support both financially and in kind from Organisations and Individuals in Abbots Bromley during the last couple of difficult years.

In particularly our thanks to:-

Abbots Bromley Parish Council
Abbots Bromley United Charities
Abbots Bromley British Legion
Abbots Bromley Football Club
Abbots Bromley Cricket Club

Cllr Greg Hall ESBC and
Steve Manning
Nick Brayshaw & Sue Brittan

Without your support we would not be in the position we are today

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We were determined to maintain our professionalism so we sought out an organisation to bridge the skills gap previously filled by Staffordshire County Council – we affiliated ourselves with SCVYS (Staffordshire Council of Youth Services)

They provide us with:

Support with Policies and Procedures
DBS checks
Support with Training needs &
Grant Finder searches

I am pleased to advise that in December 2015 we were accepted as Full Members of this organisation

We currently have 19 youth club members all between 11 and 17 year of age
We have had lots of new faces attending over the last 12 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 10/12 young people

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

Fund raising activities

We have held a number of fund raisers during the past year of which the Horn Dance was the most successful raising a total of £128

During 2016 we attended 2 Burton Albion home matches – Everyone had a great time

We generate some income from our weekly subscriptions (50p) and our own tuck shop (which the young people now manage).

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

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 couple of years.

Our volunteers of whom we have 9 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.

P Ryan, AB 4 Youth

<p>STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UTTOXETER RURAL DIVISION – REPORT 2017</p>
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Uttoxeter Rural Division Annual Report April 2017

The County Council Election is behind us and I am pleased to report I have been re-elected for another term with a majority of 2,616.

The Conservatives retained overall control of Staffordshire County Council after securing 51 seats – an increase of 17 on the 2013 results.

The final results were: Conservative 51, Labour 10 and Other 1.

I took it as a vote of confidence and for the next four years and I would like to thank all those who voted in the election.

I have been the Leader of the County Council for the past four years with other roles on the council's behalf such as the Local Government Pension Scheme, Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Board, Midlands Engine Strategic Board and Midlands Connects. I am Vice Chairman of 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.

2016 has been a fabulous year for Staffordshire and it's only when we stop and take stock that you realise how much work has been done in the last 12 months to help residents and just how much there is to celebrate about the county's past and present.

January: The year got off to a flying start with the news that a national catering spares distributor had been granted permission to build its new headquarters at Kingswood Lakeside Business Park in Cannock. First Choice Group's move to larger premises will allow it to grow and potentially double the number of employees from its current 130. Other major projects include the installation of a new bridge across the West Coast Mainline to open up Liberty Park, Lichfield; preparation of Bericote Four Ashes, in South Staffordshire, which is to become home to Gestamp – safeguarding 800 local jobs; and the provision of infrastructure for the new business park at Meaford, near Stone.

February: Successful completion of more work meant that 90 per cent of homes and businesses in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent could connect to superfast fibre broadband, as a result of the county council's work with BT and private investment. It is now accessible by 97 per cent.

March: Parents across the county discovered whether their children had been allocated a place at their preferred secondary school. And again, Staffordshire proved to have one of the highest success rates in the country, with 98 per cent of 7,406 applicants allocated one of their top three selections – and 94 per cent their first choice.

April: With 11 libraries already in the process of transferring to the community, bidding began to take over the day-to-day running and management of the remaining 12. As 2016 draws to an end the process is nearing completion, with a church group, village association and a health trust among the bidders taking over.

May: The first ever Staffordshire Day on May 1st was a huge success for the county, with residents, tourist attractions and other businesses taking advantage of the Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate Staffordshire and all its achievements. Dozens of street parties and other events, including at Rudyard Lake, were held across the county

June: Thousands of competitors showed their mettle by lining up for the second IRONMAN 70.3 event to be held in Staffordshire. More than 2,000 local, national and international competitors took part, generating an estimated £2 million for the local economy, while many of the non-elite athletes used the opportunity to raise money for their preferred charity.

July: Just as pupils, parents and teachers were preparing for the summer holidays, new figures revealed that the number of primary and secondary schools in the county rated ‘good’ and ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted had risen to 85 per cent – an increase of 15 percentage points from the position in 2013. Education chiefs praised not only the sustained effort in the class rooms, but the work commissioned behind the scenes to improve standards.

August: Staffordshire’s Olympians and Paralympians played their part in making it a golden summer in Rio for the GB squad. Uttoxeter swimmer Adam Peaty smashed the world record on his way to an individual gold medal and a relay silver. Stone canoeist Joe Clarke, seized gold too with Paralympian Lee Pearson winning gold and silver.

September: Parents benefited as Staffordshire was chosen as one of eight authorities in the country to pilot the introduction of 30 hours’ free childcare for three and four-year-olds. This meant more than 400 parents were able to enrol through some of the county’s largest employers – either allowing them to take on more hours’ work, or keep some money in their pocket.

October: Work began on a package of road and infrastructure developments, including a new bridge, to enable developers to get to work on the multi-million Branston Locks development near Burton. Eventually 400 acres of land immediately west of the A38 will be developed with 2,500 new homes, a range of community facilities and a 50-acre employment site, which will be known as Quintus. It will also include retail, health, leisure and recreational facilities, as well as provision for older people. Separate developments on land nearby will see new primary and high schools built by the county council. The total investment in the area could be more than £800 million.

November: Plans for the creation of 3,500 jobs and 660 start-up businesses in South Staffordshire over the next four years were agreed by the county and district councils. Included in the package was the provision of skills training so young people could meet local employers’ needs, help for older people to get back into work and a healthier living programme. District deals are also in place in Newcastle, where more than £40 million is being invested in the town centre, Burntwood, the Moorlands and Stafford.

December: The year drew to a close with many projects well underway, such as the installation of a new junction on the A50; or coming to fruition, as with the opening of the new £1.5 million household waste recycling centre in Uttoxeter. Finally joblessness also remained the lowest in the West Midlands at 0.9 per cent proving the county’s efforts to boost the economy, attract new investment and jobs are paying off

The Staffordshire Economy

We all agree and understand that people in gainful employment are healthier, safer and less crime is committed, reducing pressures on vital public services.

Across Staffordshire last month there were 5,825 people claiming out of work Universal Credit benefits including Job Seekers Allowance, this equates to a rate of 1.1%. Staffordshire County has the joint lowest rate in this measure of all West Midlands Strategic Authorities.

There are 3,484 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Staffordshire, this equates to a rate of 0.7%. Staffordshire County Council has the fourth lowest rate in this measure of all West Midlands Strategic Authorities.

The growth in employment over the past 4 years has meant that in October 2016 there were 439,100 in employment across Staffordshire, an increase over the year of 12,300. The picture looks even better when you remember self-employed, voluntary workers and those working their own business are not included in these figures. This brings fresh challenges to recruitment in certain sectors.

3rd Lowest County Council Tax in the Country

This past year has been the most difficult in budgeting I have ever known. I am mindful that the County Council has the largest part of your Council Tax. Last May the Clinical Commissioning Groups informed us they could not afford to fund the party of social care through the Better Care Fund but had to reduce their deficit. This meant we have had to find £15 million in year savings. This comes in addition to the growing cost of social care both for older people and vulnerable children.

After last year's additional £20 million investment for social care for vulnerable adults and children, this year we have had 1.95 per cent increase in council tax and in addition the government has allowed us 3 per cent extra council tax specifically for Adult Social Care, about £9 million, to help with the ongoing pressures of our frail elderly resulting in a Band D county council tax of £1,142.54.

Staffordshire continues to have one of the lowest county council taxes in the country, only Hampshire and Somerset are lower. For comparison county council tax for Band D is £1,288.43 in Nottinghamshire and £1,211.66 in Derbyshire.

A50 Growth Corridor update: April 2017

The A50 Growth Corridor projects are part of a multi-million pound Government investment. The aim is to cut congestion, address safety concerns, support local businesses and create more jobs and opportunities for Staffordshire people.

Highways England manages the A50 trunk road. The Government announced proposals to improve the A50 around Uttoxeter. This is part of the National Infrastructure Plan. It was announced in the Autumn Statement in December 2013. The Government then incorporated this into The Road Investment Strategy (2014) and Delivery Plan. These are underpinned in law by the Infrastructure Act 2015. Highways England has appointed SCC to be its delivery partner for the projects and SCC is delivering these works through two separate and discrete projects:

Project A: Western Junction

This is being carried out by Carillion and project managed by Amey on our behalf as part of the Infrastructure + strategic partnership. Its construction began in June 2016 and is on course to be completed in November 2018.

It will deliver a grade-separated junction on the A50 to the West of Uttoxeter and will provide improved access to new housing and employment sites to the south of the A50. It will also

improve access to the existing and new JCB factories to the north of the A50. Work has been continuing apace and overnight lane closures on the A50 to allow the surveying of drains and clearance work were completed safely and successfully.

At the same time land has been cleared north of the A50 for the site compound, fencing erected and an access road laid down from the A522 for the compound. Temporary utility supplies are currently have been installed in the compound area.

BT has also completed cabling realignment works alongside the A522, south of the A50. All businesses were consulted with minimal disruption.

The A50 is the most important transport link between the East and West Midlands and the planned improvements will also benefit major employers and their employees between Stoke-on-Trent and Derbyshire, making journeys quicker, easier and safer.

Highways England's investment in this key highway is part of a huge £1.8 billion investment to modernise the Midlands strategic road network. This investment will help create a safer, more accessible network and keep traffic moving, while unlocking economic growth with support for new jobs and homes. Staffordshire County Council is delivering these improvements on behalf of Highways England.

Project B is located to the East of Project A. Highways England is currently considering how to take this project forward.

The next major step will be the delivery of six steel beams, each 47 metres long, for use in the new bridge across the A50.

To allow delivery and unloading to be done safely, and to minimise disruption, the A50 westbound is scheduled to be closed overnight for five consecutive nights from Monday, June 5th, to Friday, June 9th.

This is a logistically complex operation and the only safe way to do this is to close the A50 westbound. To minimise inconvenience to the public we are arranging for the closures to take place overnight with a well signposted diversion route which is suitable for all vehicles, including HGVs.

The eastbound A50 will be unaffected by the closures. Advance notices warning of the closures will be put in place by Highways England on its wider A-road and motorway network to encourage traffic to take alternative routes on the nights.

The westbound A50 will be closed between the B5030 roundabout at Uttoxeter, where McDonald's stands, and the A521 roundabout at Blythe Bridge.

Traffic will be diverted northwards from the A50 on to the B5030 for a few hundred yards to the roundabout with the A518. Traffic will turn right there, cross back over the A50 along The Dove Way and continue on the A518 clockwise around Uttoxeter and follow the road towards Stafford. Vehicles will then follow the A51 and A34 towards Stoke-on-Trent.

The Shell petrol station, which stands on the westbound carriageway a few hundred yards west of the B5030 roundabout, will open as normal and access will be maintained at all times via the A522.

More information will be provided nearer the time, but plenty of warning is being given so people can plan ahead.

Highways Defect reporting

The highways call centre will no longer be accepting emails as a way of **reporting defects**. They are encouraging the public to use the new reporting systems in place as well as the 0300 111 8000 number.

The first link below is to the 'report it' page on the website and the second link goes to the 'MyStaffs' app page which has separate links to download the app through Google Play store or iTunes.

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#top>

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/MyStaffs-App/MyStaffs-App.aspx>

The report it system is easy to use and if you want to attach photos you can. Once reported this goes straight in to the system ready to be directed to the correct team without having to go through the call centre.

As part of the national **Pothole Action Fund**, the county council has been awarded just over £1 million to help towards its work in repairing potholes across the county.

Since the county council election we will put another £3 million into highway repair and a further £2 million dependent on capital receipts to remove the backlog of repairs this summer on Staffordshire's 6,400km of roads.

New Uttoxeter Household Waste Recycling Centre

The new £1.5 million household waste recycling centre in Uttoxeter is now open and has been built on brownfield land off Dove Way, to replace the town's previous permanent site at Pennycroft Lane. It's a really modern facility that offers everything people need to recycle and it will be easily accessible for residents from the town and the surrounding area. Like all our centres, the site will accept the usual wide range of recyclable household waste, including cardboard, cooking oil, garden waste and electrical appliances. It will be open five days a week, closing Wednesdays and Thursdays.

It is a statutory duty for the sites to accept household waste for free, this is waste produced in the normal day-to-day occupation of a home. Additional waste such as landscaping or construction work is considered as non-household waste and we do not have to accept this waste

As a result, SCC will charge for the disposal of some non-household waste which includes soil and rubble, plasterboard and tyres at our recycling centres. The charge will contribute to overheads and the cost of disposing of the materials.

Charging will ensure that we can continue to offer disposal facilities for these materials to residents, who would otherwise find them difficult to get rid of and will ensure that the system is not abused by those seeking to dispose of trade waste for free.

Education School places

Nine out of 10 parents in Staffordshire have been offered their first choice primary school, despite rises in pupil numbers putting pressure on school places with the majority of parents allocated their first choice school, with 98 per cent in total allocated one of their top three preferred schools.

A total of 9,278 places have been allocated, with 8,565 of those receiving their first choice primary school and 9,110 getting one of their top three. This is despite a rise in birth rate of up to 11 per cent in Staffordshire over the past decade putting more pressure on school places. Parents have an automatic right of appeal for a school of their choice even where they have been allocated their second or third choices. Key contact numbers are:

For information on the **Admissions** process – 0300 111 8007

For information on the **Appeals** process – (01785) 895335

IRONMAN® 70.3 Staffordshire Sunday 18 June 2017

The race to get a place in IRONMAN® 70.3 Staffordshire has started as registration for the event is now open. In the first two years the event has proved a sell-out success and organisers say people will need to be quick off their marks to be part of the line-up for the event. This year we will be really encouraging residents, businesses and schools to get involved and make the event an even bigger success story.

Once again, the event will see competitors complete a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike ride and 13.1 mile half marathon, starting at Chasewater, passing through Cannock Chase before culminating at the historic Shugborough Estate.

Temporary road closures will be in place across the county to ensure the safety of athletes and the wider public. Please use the below information to plan your journeys in advance and to help your carers navigate the roads safely on race day. Essential access for carers can be facilitated.

- The bike course is live between 07:00 – 14:30. The one lap course leaves Chasewater Lake towards King's Bromley. It travels along the A515 and circles the Needwood/Hanbury area. It then heads east along the B5017, then south along the B5013 towards Cannock Chase, before concluding in Shugborough Estate.
- The run course is live between 10:00 – 17:30. The three lap course takes athletes out of Shugborough Estate via Essex Bridge, then from Great Haywood to Little Haywood. The course then travels down Meadow Lane to re-enter Shugborough estate.

If there are any issues or questions please contact staffordshire70.3@ironmanroadaccess.com or call 033 3011 6600.

Exciting New Prospects for Education in Rocester

The new school off Ashbourne Road Rocester to replace the existing Ryecroft CE Middle School and Dove First School Rocester is completed and open.. The old Dove First site is now being converted to an Apprenticeship Hub for JCB Academy and potentially builds 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.

Plans are being consulted on to ensure a safe route to the school from Rocester with a footway along Ashbourne Road and a footway at the Queens Arms.

As part of the planning conditions a footway will be constructed from Denstone on the B5031 with the Toucan crossings across the B5030 and a drop off zone for transport at the school.

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 already feeling the benefit. You can find when and where the faster fibre broadband will be available at the Superfast Staffordshire website www.superfaststaffordshire.co.uk/

Staffordshire County Council, BT and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) are working in partnership to deliver superfast broadband services across Staffordshire as part of the national programme managed by BDUK. When added to the commercial roll-out we now have 95% of premises receiving speeds in excess of 24 Mbps.

Unfortunately there was insufficient funding available to achieve 100 per cent coverage, which means that additional funding and further developments in technology will be required to address the remaining 26,000 premises (final 5 per cent). I am well aware that this affects Uttoxeter Rural.

Recently BT has made £2.4 million “gain-share” funding available to Superfast Staffordshire to reinvest in extending the network further. This will be used to start and reduce the number of premises in the final 5 per cent. This reinvestment is taking place much earlier than anticipated, as the demand for superfast broadband services has been greater than originally predicted.

MyStaffs App and the shift to digital

You can access all your council services on the move with the ‘My Staffs App’, free and available on Apple devices, android and Google platforms from the Apple App store and Google Play.

What is the MyStaffs app? It’s a much quicker and easier way in which customers can talk to us with new technology using smart phones. If you need to report an issue, make a transaction, or request information, with the free app you access key services anytime, anywhere.

You can even specify your location so that you receive information about the services which just apply in your area.

What’s more is that the app doesn’t just feature key county services but some at district and borough level too, which means you can access everything all in one place, at the touch of a button.

So far, we have partnered up with South Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth to deliver this service.

What's available on the app?

Services available through the app include:

- School Term Date Information
- School Closures
- Childcare
- Advice and information for parents of under 5s
- Local Venues and Attractions
- Waste Services
- School Meal Menus and Pricing
- Registration Services
- Council Tax Information (only available in Lichfield and Tamworth)
- Roads and Highways

So, if you’re always on the go – save time today and download the MyStaffs App for Apple and Android devices

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/

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.

Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS)

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

Certainly young people are leading the way on social action or people helping people as we call it here in Staffordshire. Latest Office of National Statistics figures show that whilst overall volunteering is slightly down, amongst young people it is significantly up. SCVYS census data collected from our members also shows a dramatic rise, with over 1500 under 18s volunteering regularly in local member group activities, up over 60% on last year..

There is certainly a shift in emphasis from public services towards greater personal responsibility, family resilience and resourceful communities to resolve their own issues, and only involve public services with those who most need the help.

So, once again young people are leading the way. They get so much bad press maybe it is time to loudly and proudly celebrate their contribution to Staffordshire's local communities.

More details at www.staffscvys.org.uk

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 are in the form of the 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 their passage on the A50 and A38.

The Staffordshire Freight Forum was formulated following a recommendation of the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Report

Whilst the A515 was used as the case study, the resulting Freight and Communities Forum enables dialogue at a county-wide and strategic level. While understanding that members of the public and their representatives have very genuine and serious concerns regarding freight traffic through their communities; it remains the case that these are best directed towards parish councils who are able to raise these issues within the strategic forum.

A meeting has just recently been held between officers from Staffordshire County Council, Highways England and members of the parish councils affected by recent overnight road closures to discuss the recent works on the A38 and associated diversions but also to look at the future programme for Highways England and how these are likely to impact upon communities locally. The level of future works planned by Highways England is likely to be greatly reduced once the current works are completed. The future proposals for HS2 and the impact this will have upon the A38 will minimise the level of future work Highways England are able to undertake. However, this is caveated by the fact other works such as those undertaken by Utility companies may need to have road space in the future, something which is out of Highways England's control.

An outcome from the last Staffordshire Freight and Communities Forum was for the creation of an A515 working group to discuss issues at a local level, leaving the Freight Forum to operate at a strategic level across Staffordshire. Local officers will now be formulating Working Groups which will open up a channel for dialogue at a local level and allow community representatives and invitees of community action groups, further opportunities to discuss more specific localised concerns regarding HCV traffic. Any specific issues you wish to raise should be directed to your elected parish council who will be representing the communities at the working group meetings.

At the last Staffordshire Freight and Communities Forum it was indicated that to remove the Primary route Status on the A515 would require significant investment into undertaking a review of all of the Primary Routes in Staffordshire, not just the A515, as removing the status of one route will have effects and consequences upon other routes in Staffordshire. Should any recommendation be made to alter or amend a route (or series of primary routes) then significant funding will be required to amend the route status and replace or amend signage. Currently no funding is available for such a review or to provide the significant investment in signage changes or route reclassification works required.

Instead and in order to better understand the movements of HCV traffic and in recognition of concerns about HCV traffic speeds the County Council will be commissioning a traffic survey which will record speed, volume and routing of traffic on the A515/A513. Footage from CCTV cameras installed by the Council will also be used to support the analysis of this data. This survey is likely to be undertaken around May 2017 once the current programme of works on the A38 is complete and traffic levels settle back down. The traffic data counts will be located at various places along the A515 from Woodend Lane through to Draycott in the Clay and will be supplemented by CCTV cameras that will record and collect information of vehicle movements at key junctions.

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

Abbots Bromley Nostalgia Team	Funding for 4 display boards	£400.00
St John the Baptist Church Kingstone PCC	Printing costs for local news	£350.00
Talbot First School	Chess competition	£135.00
Ellastone Monday Club	Funding for hall hire	£180.00
Draycott in the Clay Parish Council	Renovate play park	£500.00
Katharine House Hospice	Funding towards lymphedema couch	£500.00
Mayfield Bowls Club	Funds towards green mower	£1,385.00
Sport Across Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent	Agronomy survey for Sports Hub	£750.00
Leigh & District WI	Leigh Defibrillator	£800.00
Friends of Stafford Samaritans	Building repair	£200.00
1st Stramshall Scout Group	Towards 2 Vango Force 10 tents	£300.00
SCC - Place, Highways & Built Communities	Marchington Cliff improved signage	£750.00
SCC - Place, Highways & Built Communities	Ellastone Speed Indication Device	£500.00
SCC - Place, Highways & Built Communities	Stanton Dale road improved signage	£750.00

Much is happening in the area. If anyone wants to apply for funding from this year's £7500 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.

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EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR BAGOTS WARD - REPORT
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Verbal report to be provided at the Parish Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday, 18th May 2016 at the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllr R Jarman (Chair), S Perrins, A Bebbington, Cllr A Wakefield, Cllr R Robb, Cllr C Ashton, Cllr M Moore, Cllr B Walters, T Wheeldon, M Mills, R Mills, J Elkington, A Elkington, Cllr P Charles, D Richards, P Goodwin, K Webb, V Webb, N Perry, J Hough, M Shaw, C Cumburlidge, D Jackson, K Baker, T Green, L Pickard, I Pickard, P Male, Cllr G Hall, S Slater, D Whatten, G Hart

In attendance: Mrs Sarah Meads (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr P Greenwood, K Cadman, Cllr P Atkins, Rev Davies

1. Chairman's Welcome and Report.

Cllr Roger Jarman summarised his report (as detailed in full previously). He said that Cllr Greg Hall would talk further on the development on Ashbrook Lane.

Ivy House development would see the addition of four more homes which will count towards the forty homes required by the local plan.

The development at Kentilee had now received planning permission, however, this is still an issue due to the lack of parking.

Thanks were given to the Brandrick family for the donation of the Christmas Tree

Parish Surgeries not well attended but they are there if anyone want to speak to councillors.

Other changes in the village include the addition of a new post box and the mobile library being downgraded from three stops to one stop.

Cllr Jarman confirmed that the Parish Council had donated £5,000 towards the ABSA development.

Thanks were given to five councillors that had left the council and welcome to the five new councillors.

2. Presentation of the Jubilee Cup

The certificate was presented to Mr John Stevenson as the winner of the Jubilee Cup in 2015.

Cllr Jarman presented the Jubilee Cup for 2016 to the Brandrick family. Thanks were given for their very generous donation of the Christmas tree every year and also for help in putting the tree up.

3. Abbots Bromley United Charities

Cllr P Charles presented the accounts for the United Charities. Cllr Charles said that Cllr P Ryan had become a new trustee to replace Clive Cook. Thanks were given to Clive for his work.

Fifty people received funds.

Donations given to AB Friendship Group, Evergreens, First Responders, AB Youth Club and The Scouts.

The accounts were signed by Cllr Roger Jarman and Cllr P Charles.

4. Parish Council Accounts

The draft unaudited Parish Council accounts were made available at the meeting.

5. Open Forum

Cllr Hall Report

Cllr Greg Hall provided a verbal update as follows:-

After four years of trying the village now has a new post box!

ESBC well run financially, only borough council to set 0% increase and freeze on council tax. Financial pressure tight for local councils, particularly for highways repairs. Staffs still one of the cheapest council taxes.

Cllr Hall confirmed that he is now chair of the Planning Committee. ESBC Local Plan was adopted on 15th October. All planning approval now on the basis of ESBC Local Plan. An appeal has now come in for Ashbrook Lane, however, there has recently been a High Court ruling which may jeopardise all local plans. ESBC now needs to defend decisions on many sights and not just Ashbrook Lane.

He confirmed that there are now 17 Neighbourhood Plans at different levels of development throughout the borough and Abbots Bromley is one of those.

Cllr confirmed that Naomi Perry from ESBC is in attendance if anyone has any questions regarding Ashbrook Lane or the Local Plan.

Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr Bryn Walters

So what is a neighbourhood plan and why bother? That's probably something that most of us have wondered and that may form part of the reason for your attendance this evening. There are lots of different definitions of what a Neighbourhood Plan is or isn't but essentially a Neighbourhood Plan is the opportunity for the community to have its voice heard about how the Parish should develop in the coming years.

Introduced through the Localism Act in 2011 Neighbourhood Plans give an unprecedented degree of say over development policy, hitherto never afforded to a community like ours. Previously we were restricted to providing our voice through documents like the village design statement or conservation area appraisal – all important pieces of work but none of which have the statutory clout of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Of course with this additional power comes responsibility; to be inclusive throughout all stages of the process, to reflect the views of all parts of the parish and to allow everyone's voice to be heard and reflected in the eventual plan. There are various legal steps that also have to be followed, for instance the plan must be in general conformity (i.e. accord with) the adopted East Staffordshire Local Plan, have regard to national planning policy, must be positively prepared and must go through various stages of compulsory consultation as well as examination by the Planning Inspectorate. It must also at final draft stage go through a formal referendum throughout the Parish to give everyone of voting age the ability to have the final say on whether it should be adopted, therefore recognising a clear democratic mandate.

We started back in July 2015 when the Parish Council agreed to begin the process of bringing together a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council then wrote to East Staffordshire Borough Council in August 2015 to request that the Parish become a

Neighbourhood Plan Area. There then followed a statutory consultation period to consult on the Neighbourhood Plan area that ran until October.

In November the Parish Council held a public meeting which was really well attended that set out what a neighbourhood plan is and to receive interest from any members of the community wishing to form a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. We were quite overwhelmed, even at that early stage with the interest shown.

The Parish Council then set about formally agreeing a terms of reference or structure for the working group to operate under, which it did in November. The first meeting took place after Christmas in January this year and the group has met regularly both formally and informally since. Details of the meetings and what was discussed is available from the website.

The group is made up of Parish Councillors but mostly interested members of the community. Several members of the group are here this evening and so hopefully you will get a chance to speak to them. We've got a really good range of skills and experience within the group and that will be vital as we move forward. Having only lived in the village for a couple of years I often feel quite out of my depth given the experience and insight of others!

Following the question of "what is a neighbourhood plan and why bother?" The next question that crops up the most is "So what can a Neighbourhood Plan cover?"

The simple answer is, there isn't a set list of things that a plan can or can't do but to give a flavour we've brought along some plans from other parishes in East Staffordshire for you to have a look through and get a sense. Essentially it is down to the community to determine what issues matter to Abbots Bromley, what's important, what do we want to see, what don't we want to see?

As you'll note from the other plans within the display policies can include (but not restricted to)

- The development of housing, including affordable housing (affordable housing is housing that is not normally for sale on the open market), and bringing vacant or derelict housing back into use.
- Provision for businesses to set up or expand their premises.
- Transport and access (including issues around roads, cycling, walking and access for disabled people).
- The development of schools, places of worship, health facilities, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres and village halls.
- The restriction of certain types of development and change of use, for example to avoid too much of one type of use.
- The design of buildings.
- Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and gardens, and the planting of trees.
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets such as archaeological remains.
- Promotion of renewable energy projects, such as solar energy and wind turbines.

There is huge scope and much work to be done. Many of you no doubt took part in our first consultation exercise, thank you for doing so. We've had such a good response rate that is taken longer than we anticipated to pull together the results but we've got some presentation materials to share with you this evening so please take some time to have a look and ask questions about what we've found out and how we intend to build on this information going forward.

Continued Open Forum

Mrs Elkington asked if the four houses at Ivy House and the two at Kentilee would go towards the forty needed in the ESBC local plan. It was confirmed that this would be the case.

Neighbourhood Plan Group asked to introduce themselves, they all stood up and did so.

Mr Geen said that it is an observation that developers seem to be able to appeal so is worth it. Cllr Jarman agreed that the government planning policy is developer led rather than community led.

Cllr Hall confirmed that ESBC will continue to be plan lead. Planning by appeal doesn't help anyone. If developers have to appeal they have to spend a lot of money and then do not have the money to spend on Section 106. There can also be the cost for the local authority if they lose the case. He confirmed that inspectors will always come out to site and local people can also attend.

Mr Payne said that the Queen's Speech mentioned the local plan and neighbourhoods having more say in planning. He asked if all houses are built within the forty allocation would more sites need to be identified? Cllr Hall explained that the forty is a guide but may not be exact. Mr Payne also said that there are over sixty cars parked on the High Street.

It was confirmed that traffic and parking was one of the main issues raised in the consultation for the Neighbourhood Plan. A further survey would take place and then targeted consultations. Naomi Perry from ESBC said that there is a real opportunity to address issues within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Jarman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also thanked the Neighbourhood Planning team for providing displays and an update. He confirmed that this would be his last Parish Assembly as Chair.

Signed _____ Date _____