

Neighbourhood Development Planning Group Update



It is estimated that by 2030 92% of the population will be living in urban areas. Many villages will have been subsumed by the spread of towns and cities.

Abbots Bromley's future is in our hands and will be largely determined by the legislation we decide to adopt in our Neighbourhood Plan - legislation in the form of policies on Housing; Employment and Community Facilities; Design, Heritage and Environment; Local Green Space; Transport; Quiet Lanes; Tourism.

Government funding has been applied for and has now been secured. Our consultant will now be able to draft our policies based on the feedback that has been gained from the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group's monthly public open meetings as well as from local and national data sources.

You will have a remaining opportunity to influence these policies over the next few weeks by attending meetings or submitting your thoughts in writing. After this the Neighbourhood Plan will be drafted for your observations, before being submitted to ESBC for their go-ahead for a parish referendum..

Please do your best to comment on the Neighbourhood Plan policies by attending the final meetings or by submitting your written comments.

The village's future really is in our hands!

HS2 Update

A brief summary of the circumstances surrounding the plans by HS2 to build a new substation at Parkgate and the work of the combined parishes of Abbots Bromley, Hoar Cross and Newborough can be found on-line at <https://www.abbotsbromley.com/Show/News/item/520>. If you are not able to access this report then please contact the Parish Clerk for a printed copy.

The aim from the start by the Steering Group has been to understand the reasons why HS2 came to favour Parkgate as a power source, and preferably to move the infrastructure out of our area. Failing that, we felt that undergrounding the cables would have a less detrimental visual impact on the landscape in the long term.

Sadly the petition was unsuccessful. The Parish Council would like to thank all those involved in the Steering Group for all their efforts.

The plans and sections for HS2 Phase 2a as amended in Select Committee were published on 24 June 2019.

The Plans and Sections volumes as amended by the House of Commons Select Committee incorporates the changes that have been made since the beginning of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands to Crewe) Bill being deposited to Parliament. Documents can be viewed by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plans-and-sections-for-hs2-phase-2a-as-amended-in-select-committee>. Alternatively hard copies are available to view at Uttoxeter Library.

Councillor Tel no.



- Mr K Baker (01283 840690)
- Mrs K Haywood (07970 590076)
- Mr M Hobbs (07717792868)
- Mr N Taylor-Brown (07903 336950) **VICE CHAIR**
- Dr C Whorwood (07460 455241) **CHAIR**

Parish Clerk Sarah Meads
Telephone 01283 840891
E-mail parish.council@abbotsbromley.com
Website www.abbotsbromley.com/pc

Other useful numbers

Highways Hotline To report any problems with Highways, Lighting, Signs: 0300 111 8000
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/home.aspx>

ESBC waste management: To report full re-cycling bins at Schoolhouse Lane: 0800 26 90 98

ESBC Enforcement Team (Dog fouling): 01283 508576

ESBC Planning Enquiries: 01283 508570

Police: All non emergency calls: 101

Greg Hall (Borough Councillor): 01283 840836

Phillip Atkins (County Councillor): 018895 90922

Bromley Bulletin

New Parish Councillors

At this year's Parish Council Election none of the previous councillors stood for election and just three parishioners stood and were duly elected on 2nd May. This did give the Parish Council enough to function as it provided a quorum, however, it is far short of the nine councillors that are required for a full council. A further two councillors were co-opted on to the council at the May meeting.

Your new Parish Councillors are :-

Cllr Christopher Whorwood, Chairman. *I have lived in Abbots Bromley for only two years but in that time have been made to feel very welcome. I am married and have one son who is away studying at university. I have worked for many years in academic medical research in hospitals both in the UK and abroad and more recently in education, as a teacher, and in public and environmental health. I care deeply about preserving the thriving rural environment of Abbots Bromley which we all share. Consequently, I became a member of the Community Speed Watch Team, have actively contributed to neighbourhood development planning and stood for election to the parish council.*

Cllr Nigel Taylor-Brown, Vice Chairman *I have lived in Abbots Bromley for 44 years; I have spent most of my life in Public Service with 31 years as a Firefighter, 10 of these served within the Village as a retained firefighter. Since leaving the fire service I have pursued my career within the Health and Safety profession.*

I am passionate about the Village and hope to be able to use this as a positive influence to ensure that the Village can be enjoyed by not only those that live and work here but by those that also wish to visit.

Cllr Keith Baker *I have lived in the village for 35 years and am a retired teacher. I am a member of the Village Hall committee, and also of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group. My aim is to help maintain Abbots Bromley's status as a friendly village.*

Cllr Mrs Karen Haywood *I came to Abbots Bromley at the tender age of 6 months old, moved 20 miles away in my early adult life returning 12 years ago with my husband and two daughters. I am a retired police officer and currently work at Abbots Bromley school. I am involved with Community Speed Watch and Abbots Bromley swimming club. I enjoy village life and am keen to maintain a safe community for the residents.*

Cllr Michael Hobbs *I have lived in the village for 8 years now with my 3 children, with my eldest daughter attending Abbots Bromley School. I am very passionate about our surroundings and village life and consequently signed up to be become your Chairman of the NDP to help in any way I could protecting what we all have.*

Could you join the parish council?

It will be difficult for five councillors to carry out all the things our parish council has previously done - such as organise the Best Kept Village, conduct safety inspections for the children's play areas; keep abreast of HS2 developments, highways issues to name but a few.

Would you be willing to join the parish council? Are you interested in the future of Abbots Bromley and the surrounding area? Do you have some spare time to attend meetings and carry out councillor duties between meetings?

Four more members are needed to bring us up to a full complement and can be co-opted on at any future meetings.

Further information can be obtained from Sarah Meads, Clerk to the Parish Council, by telephoning 01283 840891 or email parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

Parish Council Meetings

7.00 pm Wednesdays

In the Village Hall:

31st July

25th September

30th October

27th November

PC Surgery

10-11am Saturdays in Church House

27th July

21st September

23rd November

Best Kept Village Competition

Thank you to everyone that has helped the village throughout the judging of Best Kept Village. Particular thanks to all the children who created so many wonderful posters for us to display around the village.

Judging continues throughout July so let's keep up the great work and keep Abbots Bromley looking great.

We will find out in August if we have been successful for the third year running so fingers crossed.

A full report will be published in the Autumn issue of the Bulletin

Abbots Bromley

Parish Council Newsletter July 2019 — Issue No 69



Chairman's Report 2018-19 by Councillor Philip Charles

Planning – During the year we have been consulted on 65 planning applications (compared with 50 last year). These ranged from the usual tree works, house extensions to several agricultural barn conversions.

The Parish Council can only object to an application in line with planning legislation, but we are fortunate that two Cllrs are qualified planners and able to advise accordingly. Our Clerk identified that ESBC had not consistently reported our objections on their website but was able to ask that this was retrospectively addressed. Her actions seem to have prevented further errors.

Regrettably 2 of the refused planning permissions were successfully appealed - the new single detached dwelling behind Argyll House, High Street went to appeal for the second time and sadly the application has now been approved by the planning inspector. The remodelling of Clematis Cottage, Lichfield Road was re-submitted and permission has now been granted.

There seems to have been a rise in requests for removal of trees within the conservation area, some with TPOs and some not. In many cases the removal of these trees has been questionable and the Parish Council has made several successful objections.

Abbots Bromley School – At time of going to print with this report the announcement had just been made that the school could potentially close at the end of the summer term. Understandably this is of great concern to teachers, staff, parents, pupils and residents of Abbots Bromley.

The Parish Council has already met with the school governors in order to hear all the facts and ensure that we are kept up to speed.

We have also discussed the impact this may have on the Neighbourhood Development Plan with the group who are moving this forward and how we can support them. The Parish Council is considering three points that may give additional protection to the village from the implications of the closure. These are:

1: Listed buildings status – the listed buildings in Abbots Bromley can be found on the Historic England website. We will be happy to consider properties to be added to this list however it is probable this will not be possible as all appropriate properties are already listed. For example, a few years ago, Historic England advised the equestrian centre could not be listed. Parishioners should be reassured that buildings close to a listed building and in the Conservation Area already have some protection from development and the NDP can also add its own status to some buildings (as Mike may explain later)

2: Community Asset – We are grateful to Parish Councillor Ros Robb for her initial work on this matter. It seems that to be classed as a community asset, village residents rather than the school's students and staff must have primary use of the facility. There may be areas within the school estate that fall into this category and we will be happy to talk to ESBC to confirm the position

3: Article 4 – This clause may prohibit a developer changing the use of a property without first making a planning application. It adds an obstacle rather than stops development.

Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan – After last Parish Assembly a new group was formed to deliver the plan. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of both groups for their time and commitment in supporting the village with this important task. The chairman, Mike Hobbs will give a report on their progress later.

Highways and Parking – The Parish Council is still in discussions with Staffordshire County Council Highway's with a view to extending the zigzags at the zebra crossing to give a longer section of road without parked cars. A meeting has also been held with Highways to try to improve safety in other areas of the village and it is hoped that more measures will be provided to help to reduce speed on Lichfield Road.

The Community Speed Watch Group has been re-formed and we thank Peter Male and the Speed Watch volunteers for all their efforts on this great initiative. Peter has provided a detailed report on its activities as part of this document.

A big thank you is due to Metal Wizards of Rugeley for repairing the antique figure post on the junction of Ashbrook Lane and Lichfield Road and re-installing it, all free of charge; as the sign does not conform to modern highways standards the County Highways Department would have removed it and the village would have lost a link with the past.

Following concerns raised by some residents regarding the surface of the footpath between the Village Hall field and School House Lane the Parish Council has now received several quotations to provide a hard surface footpath along this route. The successful contractor has been informed and hopefully work on this can take place in the next few months. The footpath will need to be closed when work is carried out but the Parish Council will provide advance notice of this.

The Parish Council continues to regularly report issues such as blocked gullies and pot holes and has had some success using the on-line system. We would ask that residents also use East Staffordshire Borough Council's on-line system to report the issues as the greater the number of reports the more likely it is that work will be scheduled.

HS2 - The Parish Council formed a working group with representatives from Newborough and Hoar Cross Parish Councils and local residents to review the impact that the power lines from Park Gate to the rail line at Colton would have. The group has agreed to Petition against these power lines and Cllr Roger Jarman will give an update. Thanks go to the residents that have helped with this and given so much of their time.

Parish Council Surgeries – Our regular bi-monthly Saturday morning surgeries (10.00am to 11.00am) in Church House have continued to provide access to Parish Councillors. They have created a useful means of communication with the public although attendance could be better

Mobile Post Office – The service has continued through the year although it has been reported several times that the van has not appeared at the times advertised and now is only attending on a Thursday afternoon. It seems that it is a case of 'use it or lose it'.

Christmas Tree – This year the Council obtained more sets of mains powered lights which it was generally agreed gave a better display. Our thanks to Rob Peters for providing power to Christmas tree and to James Stephenson for assisting Parish Councillors Phil Charles, John Houlihan and Phil Ryan with getting the lights onto the tree. The Council plans to add additional lights this Christmas.

Best Kept Village Competition – After the sterling efforts by Parish Councillor Appleby, Abbots Bromley came first in the East Staffordshire area Large Village category and won the trophy for the Best Overall Village in the area for the second year in succession. This is a village achievement and we should be very proud of how we have worked together from individuals helping with the spring clean and the wide variety of who adopted an area. Entries to our village competitions for the Best kept Front Door Step and Best kept Front Garden grew in numbers.

Judges were particularly impressed with how younger members of our community got involved especially with the fantastic displays of the posters (two of ours went on to be placed in the County competition) throughout the village and the herb garden provided and maintained by the Rainbows.

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone that helped us to win the trophy again including the companies that donated prize money for our competitions. The foundations for BKV 2019 and doing 'the hatrick' are now in place - New community initiatives include the Guides and Brownies putting bird boxes and bug hotels in public areas to encourage wildlife and the Rainbows creating pots of bee friendly flowers.

Village Gateways—Village gateways create an attractive display for signage on the entry to a village and help with traffic calming as they alert motorists to a speed change so they can slow down. A grant of £1500 was received from County Councillor Atkin's fund that has been matched by the Parish Council in order to purchase gateways for the Uttoxeter Road and Ashbrook Lane entrances to Abbots Bromley that should be installed in the early summer. The Parish Council intends to purchase gateways for Lichfield Road when the work has been completed on the entrance to the Sports Field.

Outdoor Gym—During this year the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining grants of £10,000 towards Outdoor Gym equipment which will be a great asset to the village. We would like to thank village resident Rachel Walters for alerting the Parish Council to this opportunity. Parish Councillor Appleby has worked hard to source this donation from The National Lottery and carried out a survey of the village to ascertain the preferred locations for the site. Two shortlisted sites are being considered and it is hoped the gym will be available for the summer however a lot of work is needed by councillors for it to progress as planned.

Notice Boards—The village notice boards are in disrepair, however costly to replace. For this reason, the Parish Council has plans to replace them over the next few years and to install one near to Top Shop (as there is not a notice board at that side of the village). The Parish Council committed £1,500 to replace one of the notice boards and we agreed to do one a year until all were replaced. This project is still to be progressed.

Playgrounds – Over the past two years the Parish Council has undertaken some refurbishment work to both The Nuttery under 5s playground and also Millennium Green. Work has included repair to the Wetpour at the Nuttery, a new rocking cow for small children and new swing seats and chains.

At the Millennium Green there has been replacement of the wood chip and the wooden retaining posts have been replaced by recycled plastic posts which have a much longer life and will require little maintenance in the future. There is, however, more work required on The Nuttery over the next year or two including potentially the replacement of all of the wet pour as it is coming to the end of its life. The PC is also looking for volunteers who would be willing to join a painting party and give the playground a fresh lick of paint in time for the summer months. Following a request from a resident the PC also plans to put two latches on the gates to the playground so that young children can't open the gates easily. Hopefully these will be in place shortly.

War Memorial – The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has made a donation towards the repairs to the surface surrounding the War Memorial. In total the village has donated £2193. The Parish Council has set aside a further £2000 (which is in addition to the funding given last year for the wooden posts). It is hoped the work will be undertaken this summer. We are grateful to Tom Wheeldon for his continued support with this project.

Finance – As this report has been written before the end of the financial year, I cannot give details of any small donations given to village groups. Applications have been received and will be considered and decided by Parish Councillors at the April Parish Council meeting. As reported under the appropriate section of this report total grants of £11,500 were received for the Gateways and Outdoor Gym.

Jubilee Cup 2017/18 – Last year's worthy recipient was Richard Hall for providing the concessionary path in the field alongside the B5013 from the village to Port Lane and so making possible a safe route for walkers to access the reservoir.

Thanks to Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk—I would like to thank my colleagues on the Parish Council for the time they have volunteered in their role and for all they have achieved in the last year. We rely on expertise of a wonderful Clerk and I take this opportunity on behalf of all Parish Councillors to thank Sarah Meads for her hard work and support. Much of what we achieve could not be done without you.

Cllr P Charles (April 2019)