

Whitmore & District Village Hall



Regular Events

Monday	Yoga Club 9.45am (term time only) Tai Chi 6.00pm
Tuesday	Line Dancing 10.00am to 12.00 noon Karate Club 7.00pm
Wednesday	Play and Stay 9.30am to 11.30am Indoor Bowling Club 2.00pm (<i>October to March</i>) CAMEO coffee morning 10.00am to 12.00 (<i>2nd week of the month</i>) Parish Council 7.00pm (<i>1st week of the month</i>) Maer WI 7.30pm (<i>2nd week of the month September to February</i>) Beavers 6.30pm Scouts 7.30pm
Thursday	Art Group 9.30am Cubs 6.30pm Village Hall Committee 7.30pm (<i>1st Thursday of the month</i>)
Friday	Indoor Bowling Club 2.00pm (<i>October to March</i>) Dance Club 8.00pm
Sunday	Tai Chi 6.00pm Last Sunday of the month Car Boot Sale 8.00am

If you require more information or you are interested in joining any of the activities just turn up at the Village Hall on the day and time presented

To book the Hall contact
Krys Holbrook, T: 01782 680481
www.whitmorevillagehall.org.uk

University of the Third Age

For the last few years, an active and successful branch of the University of the Third Age has been growing in Madeley, and the Parish Council has been considering whether there would be any demand for a 'satellite' of Madeley U3A in Whitmore.

In particular, what Whitmore has to offer that Madeley does not is our Recreation Ground at Whitmore Village Hall, which could be used for outdoor classes or games. Inside, we have also the possibility of a table tennis club, if there was any demand for this. So – "U3A Whitmore" – is there any demand for this????????? Would you consider attending a discussion group or an adult exercise class or anything else?

We need to know from you – ring or email the Clerk if you would be interested in any of the above or maybe there is something else you would be interested in joining. The present 'interest groups' at Madeley include topics as diverse as croquet, Philosophy and ukulele!

Keep up to date by visiting the Whitmore Parish Council Website
www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk

Book the Village Hall
Parties, Weddings, Anniversaries, Charity Fund-Raising Events and Meetings

Krys Holbrook
Bookings Secretary
T: 01782 680481

Car Boot & Table Top Sale

Whitmore & District Village Hall

Last Sunday of the month

8.00am to 12.00 noon

Tables are provided indoors

£6.00 per table indoors

or outside pitch

No booking required

Ashley Music School

Tuition given at Whitmore Village Hall
www.amsprojects.webplus.net

96th Whitmore and Baldwins Gate Scout Group

Whitmore & District Village Hall
Cubs for Boys and Girls
Age 8 – 10½
Thursday 6.30 to 8.00pm
Scouts for Boys and Girls
Age 10½ to 14
Wednesday 7.30 to 8.00pm
Contact the Scout leaders for details
jayaukland@hotmail.com

Learn more about the Scouts at www.scouts.org.uk
We are also looking for volunteers to get involved.
If this is of interest please get in touch.

Whitmore Parish Council



Clerk to the Parish Council
Mrs Wendy Kinson
"The Old Laundry", Maer
Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 5EF
T: 01782 680 613
E: parish.clerk@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk



Councillor Ian D Webb
Parish Council Chairman
T: 01782 680 522
E: ianandninawebb@aol.com



Councillor Roy Peddie
T: 01782 681016
E: roy.peddie@btinternet.com



Vice-Chairman Colin Perry
Chair Parish Appearance Group
T: 01782 633300
M: 07831 484288
E: colin.perry@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk



Councillor Geoff R Corbett
Parish Appearance Group
T: 01782 680 645



Councillor Derek Davies
Parish Appearance Group
T: 01782 680383
E: derek.davies@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk

Councillor Daryl Harvey
T: 07826188444
E: darylharvey@me.com

Councillor Graham Hutton
T: 07976641601
E: graham.hutton@gmail.com

Parish Council Meetings

Whitmore and District Village Hall
Commencing 7 pm
Open Forum: 7 – 7.15 pm
Wednesday 7th March
Wednesday 4th April
Wednesday 2nd May

Whitmore Parish Council

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2018



Chairman's Report Spring 2018

I am pleased to provide you all with an update on the various issues which will have significant impacts on our Parish:-

1. Kier Development behind Gateway Avenue

No further news on this at present except that local reports indicate that work on the site has slowed considerably.

2. Potential Bellway development in land off Meadow Way

Bellway has now registered an application to take the Refusal of the Planning Application 16/01101FUL for 99 homes to Appeal. We believe that this is in order to respect the 6 months time period allowed, following a Refusal, to establish the right to Appeal. At the same time, they have registered a new Planning Application 17/01024FUL for a slightly modified development for 97 houses, enabling the balancing pond to be relocated on the site in order to avoid overlap of the "floating bog" zone, thereby weakening one of the main reasons leading to Refusal of the initial Application. One might surmise that if the new Application is permitted, the Appeal will be withdrawn (but there is no official confirmation to that effect). Whitmore Parish Council will be objecting to this revised Application, since the changes do absolutely nothing to address our concerns.

3. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The preparation of the Plan is progressing well. The latest situation is reported by the Steering Group elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The following is a contribution from the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

4. Joint Local Plan

We await the launch of the Preferred Options Consultation, currently forecast to run from 1st Feb to 1st March. Our position remains as explained in our Autumn 2017 Newsletter – dismayed and disbelieving at what is clearly going to be put forward concerning targets for new housing delivery. The recent change in leadership at the Borough Council however may well bring changes to the proposed strategy. Waiting...

5. HS2a Project

The HS2a Hybrid Bill is due to go forward to its "Second Reading" (late January or early February – date awaited). If "the principle of the Bill is established" a period of a minimum of 25 days will be opened to enable Local Authorities, including Parish Councils (and also any Action Groups and individuals who are directly and adversely against specific aspects of the current definition of the proposed HS2a Section). I have tabled a Resolution that Whitmore PC will petition against the HS2a Hybrid Bill, for ratification at our next monthly Whitmore PC meeting:-

- pressing for the adoption of a Longer Deeper Tunnel (LDT) starting South of the A53 and ending North of Bar Hill. This is Option 9 – 11.3.

- addressing our primary core concerns:- The sheer number and size of the massive infrastructures currently planned for our Parish, which will wreak total devastation upon it. The very high level of Construction Vehicle movements which the construction will generate, swamping our road network, which is totally inadequate to deal with it, during a period of several years. I have joined the combined Whitmore/Madeley Action Group (Whitmore and Madeley having the same concerns and seeking the same primary solution) which is preparing the detail of the proposed Petition (and how we present it – jointly or separately?). The Group has called a Public meeting at Whitmore Village Hall at 20H00 on Monday 12th February, primarily targeted at parishioners who will be personally badly affected by the current project plans, to explain who can petition and how to go about it. Details and petition template are available on the HS2 website – follow the link: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/highspeed-rail-west-midlands-crewe-bill-selectcommittee-commons/>

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6. The Longer Deeper Tunnel

We believe that the nature of the ground under Whitmore Heath is likely to be critical in determining the on-cost of adopting the LDT instead of the current tunnel design. HS2 is to carry out a series of deep bore holes to determine this and has now obtained Planning Permission to set up a base just outside Baldwins Gate from which to operate. At (very) long last the all important bore hole drilling

work, which is due to last several months, is due to start within the next few weeks....

7. Finally, I have to announce three changes to the Parish Council Team

Firstly, Councillor Audrey Pedley has retired after many years of service to the Parish. We all join in thanking her for the many contributions that she has made over the years and in wishing her every happiness during the quieter times ahead. It is hoped that she will maintain contact with the Council and I'm sure she will still have a role to play in Parish life.

Secondly, our Clerk Mrs Wendy Kinson, will be retiring shortly after seven years of successful managing to keep us all on track in our endeavours. Her loss will be keenly felt, as she has played an extremely active and successful role in Council, very much appreciated by us all. In due course, we will all thank her and wish her every happiness in what will no doubt be a very active retirement but without the demands of Parish Council duties.

Thirdly, we are all very pleased to welcome Mrs Debra Powell to the Council, as our new Clerk. Debra will officially take over the role from Wendy after a short 'handover' period, and I am confident that she will quickly become well known in the parish and prove to be a very worthy successor.

Ian Webb

A few words from Debra

"I am very much looking forward to being Parish Clerk following Wendy's successful seven-year tenure and I hope to contribute as much as she has to the Councillors and this community. I have thirty years of experience in financial management and statutory compliance working across many types of organisation including manufacturing, accountancy practice and public sector (local government and NHS). Outside of work, I enjoy walking, reading and theatre as well as spending time with my family and aging springer spaniel!

VACANCY

As you can read above, Audrey Pedley has retired and is already missed. But this does mean that Whitmore PC has a Vacancy for another Councillor. If you are interested, do speak to anyone on the Parish Council for more details.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is now entering an important and exciting new phase. We now have a draft Plan, after 2½ years of collecting and analysing evidence, formulating and drafting policies, and organising the evidence into a written supporting document. The draft Plan was submitted to the three parish councils for review and comment before the end of 2017. At the same time the policies section of the Plan was submitted to the Borough Council’s Planning Policy Team for initial comment.

Next steps

Before the Plan can be adopted and come into effect it must now go through a series of legally required processes. Progress from now on will largely be in the hands of the Borough Council and will depend on the outcome of each step.

The first step is Environmental Screening. We hope that by the time you read this article the full draft Plan will have been submitted to the Borough’s Planning Policy Team. They will send it to three governmental agencies: Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency for review and comment. This is expected to take about 2 months. Depending on the results we may be able to proceed straight to Local Consultation, or a technical review called Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) may be required. SEA would assess the Plan’s likely impact on the local environment. If SEA is required, it is likely that it would take 3–4 months.

Local Consultation

The government’s stated purpose for Neighbourhood Plans is to enable “local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community”. The Local Consultation is therefore one of the most important stages in making the Plan. This is the stage when the local community is invited to review and comment on the draft Plan, and we hope for the participation of all eligible residents. This stage will take 6 weeks. Every household will be notified and all residents aged 16 years or over will be invited to indicate whether or not they agree with the Plan and its policies, and to submit any comments that they may have. The draft Plan will be available on the parish council and Neighbourhood Plan websites, and printed copies will be placed in accessible locations such as the village halls and local churches. A number of informal drop-in consultation sessions will be held at Whitmore village hall, the Neighbourhood Area’s most central meeting point.

Independent Examination and Referendum

All the responses received in the Local

Consultation will be reviewed and some changes to the draft Plan and its policies may be necessary. The completed Plan will then be submitted to the Borough Council. The Council must conduct a second 6-week consultation on the Plan, following which the Plan, with the comments received in the second consultation, will proceed to Independent Examination. If the Independent Examiner finds that the Plan meets what are called the “basic conditions” he or she will recommend that it proceeds to Local Referendum. The Examiner may also recommend that prior to the referendum some modifications should be made to the Plan. Once the Plan has passed examination its policies will carry weight in decisions on planning applications. The Local Referendum will be the final stage in making the Plan. All adult residents of the Neighbourhood Area will be eligible to vote. If 50% or more of those voting in the Referendum vote “Yes”, the Neighbourhood Plan will be passed and its policies will come into effect and must guide decisions on planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.

News round-up

Since the last major update in April 2017 we have kept residents informed through regular articles printed in One Way magazine and posted on village noticeboards throughout the Neighbourhood Area and on the website. We have accomplished a lot. As well as writing the Plan and working with our consultant, Hannah, on the policies, we have continued to gather supporting evidence and prepare reports. To see any of the evidence and reports, visit the Neighbourhood Plan website, click on “The Plan” tab and select “Evidence base” on the drop-down menu.

Traffic issues

Traffic is a major concern to a great many residents. We were unable to obtain traffic survey data from County Highways. Instead, we are fortunate that Mr Richard Latham of Baldwins Gate agreed to analyse traffic data collected by HS2 in 2015 and 2016 and examine the traffic flows in two areas of greatest concern: Baldwins Gate and Blackbrook. The settlement of Baldwins Gate generates some 1,216 journeys daily (journeys beginning or ending between Common Lane and Woodside). Each day 12,329 vehicles enter/leave the village at Common Lane. At Blackbrook 13,636 vehicles daily pass the Swan with Two Necks, with 10,270 travelling on the A53 to/from Baldwins Gate and 9,259 travelling to/from Loggerheads. On the A51 4,377 vehicles travel to/from the Woore direction and 3,366 travel to/from the direction of Stableford.

Local Green Space

A major project was the Local Green Space Audit and preparation of the Local Green Space Designations report. The landowner and community consultation took place in August–September 2017. Thank you to all those who responded. Local Green Space designation enables communities to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. As well as identifying established community green areas such as Chapel Chorlton Green, Whitmore village hall playing field and the green areas at The Croft at Blackbrook, we have included the public rights of way on Maer Hills and the verge and stream at Aston, and the roadside verges on the A51 that link up the network of lanes and footpaths in Chorlton and Maer & Aston parishes. There are many other spaces besides. Throughout the Neighbourhood Area a total of 85 green areas were identified for protection. The Local Green Space Designations report can be viewed on the website.

Townscape Character Appraisal

In planning language a “townscape” is any group of buildings, large or small, including in rural settings. The Townscape Character Appraisal was prepared by AECOM consultants, working closely with the Steering Group. It assesses the character of the Neighbourhood Area’s many settlements and their relationship to the landscape, and includes a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of the different settlements. It also includes a Village Design Statement for Baldwins Gate. Visit the website to read the report.

It’s YOUR neighbourhood – please support the Plan!

Please participate in the Local Consultation

Visit the website:
www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Email us:
cmaw-neighbourhoodplan@hotmail.com

Are you on the Neighbourhood Plan email list?
To join the list, send us an email!

This was an article by the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Development Plan Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme Joint Local Plan.

The Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme Joint Local Plan (the JLP) is currently in preparation and will guide development across the two local authority areas until 2033.

To date, there have been two periods of public consultation on the JLP, in spring 2016 and summer 2017. A third public consultation, this time on the “Preferred Options” for the JLP, is being held from 1 February to 1 March. All residents of the city of Stoke-on-Trent and borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme have the right to respond to this consultation. The two authorities are putting forward a very ambitious plan to increase the amount of housing across the area by 27,800 units between 2013 and 2033 and to provide land to accommodate 17,372 new jobs. The numbers allocated to Newcastle are 11,720 dwellings and 7,613 jobs. The JLP will require 586 new dwellings to be completed annually in Newcastle, which is more than twice the current annual target of 285. Even under the current plan, Newcastle has failed to meet its annual target, and has failed to allocate sufficient building sites.

Christmas Tree Lights

Christmas is now well behind us but it would be remiss of us not to thank everyone who joined us at our Christmas community carols event at the Sheet Anchor on 17th December. Due to safety concerns about people congregating around the Christmas Tree on the very busy A53, it was decided to host our event in the warmth and safety of the pub. In previous years, we have gathered outside and braved the elements. Councillor Roy Peddie very kindly organized the carols and led the community singing. The event was extremely well supported by people of all ages.... including a few canines.

The Christmas Trees on the Village Green, including the nativity display, and outside the Sheet Anchor were illuminated throughout the Christmas period. Our thanks go to the Sheet Anchor and to Carl Dutton and family, who very kindly and at no charge, provided the electricity. Christmas 2018 is still a long way off but we are giving thought already to how we can make this coming Christmas festivities even better. Any thoughts would be very welcome.

Whitmore Art Group.

New members are always welcome whether beginner or experienced artist. We meet at Whitmore Village Hall every Thursday at the new time of 10 am til 12.30 pm. Cost is £1.50 per morning, including light refreshments. For further information, please contact Betty Deaville 01782 681049.

The failure to meet current targets demonstrates how unachievable the new target is likely to be. This will only result in problems for Newcastle, and continued pressure from developers on the rural area. In September 2017 the government held a nationwide consultation on housebuilding targets. The annual number of new homes that it allocated to Newcastle was 361, which is 38% less than the target proposed for Newcastle in the JLP.

So far, Newcastle has identified sites for 9,621 new dwellings. These include sites that already have planning permission, such as the ones in Baldwins Gate, and sites that have been put forward by landowners for possible development. Newcastle currently has a shortfall of sites for 2,099 homes. Before the JLP goes for Public Examination by a planning inspector in 2020, Newcastle must identify sites for these 2,099 homes. The very ambitious and probably unrealistic JLP means that Newcastle’s rural area will continue to come under severe pressure from developers, who will be looking for attractive sites and offering to “help” the Borough to

Whitmore Information Day and Autumn Fair.

Our 6th annual Information Day and Autumn Fair took place at the Village Hall on Saturday 28th October 2017. The event itself was well supported by local community organizations sharing information, together with individuals selling various crafts and curios. Sadly, the same cannot be said of the number of people who attended. It would be very easy to blame the weather, or a major event or calamity, for getting in the way, but on this occasion, this was not the case. Whatever the reason for the poor attendance, we would very much welcome your views. Were you aware of the event? Should the Information Day and Autumn Fair continue? Does it need to change? If so, how? If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions on community events, or activities, we would love to hear of them.

Public Consultation – Rural Runabout Library Service

Whitmore Parish Council has been notified that the Library Service (including Mobile Libraries) is again under review by Staffs County Council due to continued pressure on funding from central government. The Mobile Library Service is likely to be affected, as is Clayton Library (used, we know, by many Whitmore parishioners). If you use the Library Service IN ANY WAY, we encourage you to respond to the public consultation which is open until 1st April 2018. You can do this - online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/connectedlibraries. - At any ‘Drop-in’ event, to be held at all libraries. - By completing a paper copy of the Consultation, copies available at all libraries. Local libraries are under threat. We URGE you to respond and have your say about your libraries.

make up its housing numbers. All residents are entitled to respond to the public consultation on the JLP by submitting their comments. It is very important for residents to make their voices heard, because developers who are looking for lucrative sites in the Borough will also be submitting comments. We can be fairly certain that their responses will be tailored to their own interests.

Residents of Whitmore parish are urged to take part in the consultation and submit their comments. Printed copies of the JLP consultation documents are available throughout February at the Guild Hall Customer Service Centre, at the Madeley Centre, and in all public libraries in the Newcastle area. The documents are also available on the Borough website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/jointlocalplan. Comments can be submitted on the paper and online forms that are provided.

Whitmore Bells – SOS

Whitmore Church bells will be silent if we are unable to recruit new members. All ages and families are very welcome to join us. We are a very friendly group, happy to meet and develop skills in new members. We practice on Thursday mornings 9 – 9.45 am at Whitmore Church, or alternatively, tuition is available on Tuesday evenings at Keele Church.

For more information, and to join our bell-ringing group, please contact Jane Simms on 01782 681057.

Community Speed Watch

Are you tired of the number of motorists who ignore the speed limits in our Parish and who drive at excessive speeds through our villages? If so, would you like to do something positive to help address the problem? If your answer is yes, have you thought about joining our local Community SpeedWatch volunteers? Community SpeedWatch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices.

Community SpeedWatch Aims: - To help local people address speeding problems in their own area. - Increase driver and public awareness of the dangers of speeding. - Improve community safety. Our trained SpeedWatch volunteers use hand held radar equipment at pre-identified locations to check vehicle speeds. Registration numbers and makes of vehicles exceeding the local speed limit are recorded. These

Did you know...?

..... that Madeley Practice (the “doctors!”) – which includes Baldwins Gate Surgery - has a fund raising group that has been going for over 25 years.....? And did you know that in those years, over £100,000 has been raised to fund items and services outside of the NHS or the practice’s “duty to provide”? Such items have included E.C.G. machines, ear syringes, oximeters, enuresis alarms, blood pressure monitors, adjustable examination couches and much, much more including the new soft chairs at Baldwins Gate! The funds raised also pay for additional phlebotomist time (taker of blood samples). As the N.H.S. funds a phlebotomist for only one half day a week, many patients would need to attend a much less convenient centre such as Bradwell Hospital. And did you know that events to raise funds are held regularly such as quiz nights, meals at the Evening Spice restaurant in Madeley, charity auctions and much more? And did you know that the Madeley Practice Patients’ Fund has recently joined the Lyme Lottery? This a weekly lottery run by Newcastle Council and

Parish Appearance Report – January 2018

Although mid-winter, we are already planning for this coming year’s Village Appearance. The maintenance contract with Cropper covers extensive grass and hedge cutting throughout the Parish plus a number of other appearance jobs. We want to further improve the appearance across the Parish and would welcome any new ideas for work that we can add to the current contract.

The damp weather last Autumn affected the regular grass cutting and we are planning this year to increase the frequency on certain prominent areas and start as early as possible in the Spring.

It is good to see the snowdrops out and the daffodils growing so soon. Let’s hope they can cope with the cold weather and give a good display to cheer up the roadside verges. Colin Perry

WHITMORE & DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall committee continually strives to maintain, improve and upgrade the village hall facilities as will be apparent to those who have visited the Hall in recently. The ongoing support from local residents and user groups is greatly appreciated.

As a registered charity, apart from hall hire income and hard-earned grants, the village hall is reliant on donations and income from fundraising events and initiatives which we hold from time to time. Additionally, as I have outlined in my article in this publication previously, we are registered with a fundraising initiative entitled “Easyfundraising” aimed at anyone who shops on-line and wishes to support worthy causes.

You can shop with over 2000 well known stores and each will donate up to 15% of what you spend. For example, John Lewis will donate 1%, Amazon 1.5%, Body Shop 6% and so on. Donations vary from retailers but an average figure is around 5%.

Your shopping will not cost any more than if you visited each retailer’s website directly plus there is the opportunity to take advantage of voucher codes and special discounts so you can actually save money whilst helping your good cause. There is no cost to the good cause either – the service is totally free and we receive total donations each quarter.

There is no catch – you still deal with the retailer but through the Easyfundraising website and they will simply record your selected cause when you make the purchase. This is a reputable member of the Institute of Fund-raising and all you need to do to support the Village Hall is visit their website www.easy-fundraising.org.uk for full details and to register for free.

I am delighted to report that following my last article, the Village Hall has benefited significantly from Easyfundraising donations as a result of local residents and users shopping on-line and nominating us as their chosen charity. Please do consider supporting your Village Hall in this way and to those who have already done so, many thanks!

Meetings are held at Madeley surgery on the first Wednesday in January, March, May, July, September and November starting at 6.30pm. Just turn up – no introduction necessary and see what goes on. These meetings are your opportunity to help shape and improve the practice for the future.