

# Whitmore Parish Council

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015



# A Neighbourhood Development Plan for Whitmore, Chapel & Hill Chorlton, and Maer & Aston Parishes

## *A real opportunity for residents to have a say in how our area develops*

Whitmore, Chapel & Hill Chorlton and Maer & Aston Parish Councils have decided to work together to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the three parishes.

As we all know, we have faced a variety of unwelcome and inappropriate development proposals in recent times. Worryingly, Newcastle Borough Council's Planning Officers did not support us (as opposed to the Borough Planning Committee, which very much did). The borough has not

listened to the local community, who have a far deeper knowledge of the locality than the planners in town, and who are the most important stakeholders. This has made it very difficult for the neighbourhood to defend itself.

It is time for the community to take a stand! A Neighbourhood Development Plan will give us a **real opportunity** to influence future development in the area. Unlike the Parish Plans, Village Design Statements, and other exercises that have been carried out in the past, Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) have **legal standing** in the planning

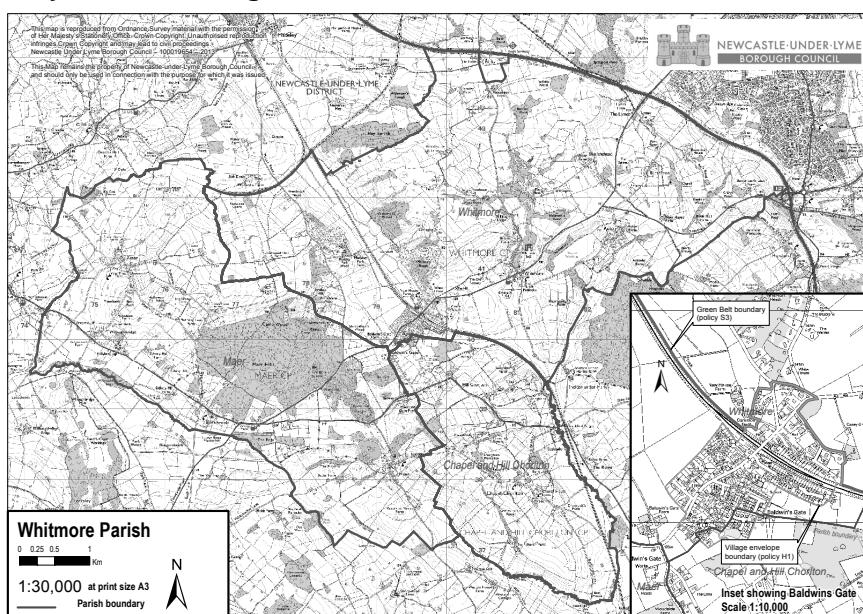
system. In other words, once the NDP has been adopted it becomes part of the Local Plan and it must be referred to and guide decision making on planning applications and planning appeals.

An NDP is about the use of land and the social, economic, and environmental development of the area that it covers. An important element of the NDP is to identify where housing should be built, what kind of housing, the amount, and its design.

Other topics for an NDP include local shops and services, transport issues, development of local businesses and employment, local green space and playing fields, community, environmental projects such as allotments, nature reserves, etc.

An essential aspect of the NDP process is to involve the community. Community involvement must be clearly demonstrated when the NDP is submitted for examination by a planning inspector. The final stage of the process is the Local Referendum, when the local community get to vote on the NDP.

By the time you read this we hope to have a steering group in



place to guide the NDP process. The first stages of the work will be to register the NDP area with the borough council and make a project plan and budget so that we can apply for grant funding. After that ... let the community involvement begin!

The success of our NDP - **your** NDP - will depend very much on participation by the

local community. There is essential preparatory work to be done, but we hope consultation with the community can begin in a few months' time. Please watch the Newsletter, Whitmore Parish Council's Twitter feed @WhitmoreParishC, and noticeboards for further information as it becomes

available. And if you feel that you have a contribution to make to this important project, then please make yourself known to one of your parish councillors or a member of the Neighbourhood Plan team.

**Councillor Judith Oppenheimer**

## Parish Council Election

This year the Parish Council four yearly elections took place. Cllr Alan Wilkinson, Cllr Bill Murray and Cllr Graham Whieldon decided to retire. Due to a shortfall in candidates applying no elections were needed.

### Judith Oppenheimer

Judith lives in Baldwins Gate and works at home as a book editor. She also has a smallholding in neighbouring Chorlton parish. Prior to joining the Parish Council Judith was a member of the Baldwins Gate Action Group.

### Derek Davies

Last year, although not of retirement age Derek decided to retire.

Within a matter of months of retiring, he was looking for opportunities to use his energies and skills, and this is what attracted Derek to the role of Parish Councillor. Not only that but he wanted to do something where the rewards were other than financial.

## Borough Councillor Paul Northcott



I look forward to building upon the last year by continuing to work together to try & help make the Parish a better place for its residents to live in.

Since my election in May 2014 I have enjoyed quite a busy time in my first year as a Borough Councillor & what has been a very steep learning curve arising from some of the issues from this Parish.

I co-run drop in Surgeries with Cllr David Loades, every 3rd Monday of the month from 10 am - 1 pm at the Loggerheads Library. I'm also available (by prior arrangement) before Parish Council meetings. T: 07900 600009 E: prnorthcott@aol.com

## Borough & County Councillor David Loades



I am extremely honoured to have been re-elected in May of this year as your ward member with a considerable increased majority and thank you for your show of support to the work I try to do locally. I understand that we have a lot of work to do over this local government period to stop, what you all know I see as, the incompetence of our local government administration to protect our residents against developer greed and to ensure we get the services we want.

I again have been elected as the Deputy leader for the opposition due to a Liberal, Labour pact, keeping the current administration in control by a very slim majority, so we were not successful in taking over the council. This is a disappointing position to be in, but I can assure you things will change. I am determined to add to the work I have achieved to date to get a better deal for the rural area of this borough that will enhance its offer of natural beauty and which keeps this borough a place where we want to live and invest our life style. This will only happen if we are listened to. Yes it is frustrating that we did not take over the Borough leadership, but I hope you will continue to talk to me and trust me as your local elected member and again I thank you for your recent show of support. T: 01630 673532 M: 07960 131408

E:david.loades@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

# Parish Appearance

The Parish Appearance initiative started in March 2013 as a way to address issues of road safety and to encourage a greater sense of community identity, ownership and pride.



The Parish Council has initially focused on Baldwins Gate and specifically in better grass verge maintenance along the A53 and added planters to Chapel Green.

The Parish Council appointed a contractor that is geared up to cut and collect and removing the annoyance of grass being left to blow around footpaths and roads.

Jubilee Gardens has been smartened up with crisp edges to the pathway. The garden provides a more private place to sit and enjoy some time away from the busy streets.

The Playing field located next to Whitmore & District Village Hall has seen investment in top dressing and goal mouth repairs and offers a good place to enjoy sport. The two playgrounds



provide a space for children of every age to play together. Picnic tables offer the opportunity for summertime picnics.

This month three large planters have been placed around the old railway station ticket office.

The Parish Council has also started to make sure our road signs and street name plates are clean.

The attention to roadside attractiveness is intended to communicate to drivers that they are entering a place that is being looked after and a place where pedestrians will be about and need greater consideration.

The investment is also about raising standards and making the Whitmore Parish a good place to enjoy life.



The Parish Council will be shifting its focus of attention in the coming months to Whitmore. This area is at the entrance to the Parish on the A53 and it doesn't look particularly well cared for. Road signs are dirty and the pavements have weeds. The Parish council will work to make this important village look more attractive and cared for.

The Parish Council would be pleased to get your views about this initiative and suggestions about what we might do to make the area a more desirable place to live. If you have any ideas or comment please email our Parish Clerk wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk.

**Councillor Carl Evans**

# Roads, Pavements & Road Traffic Signs



The Parish Council is concerned about the state of the roads and tidiness of the Parish. The Council wants to encourage everyone to report problems directly to Staffordshire County Council.

Reporting issues directly speeds up the repair process and allows you to keep in touch with how the repair is progressing.

## Staffordshire County Council

**Highways** is responsible for the maintenance of Highways, Roads & Pavements. The County Council is also responsible for the provision, maintenance and cleaning of road signs.

**Whitmore Parish Council** also maintains some highway and road grass verges in certain areas of the Parish of Whitmore.

**You Can Report a Road or Pavement Problem yourself to Staffordshire County Council**

T: 0300 111 8000

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)

Staffordshire County Council

Highways Department, Wedgwood Buildings, Stafford ST16 2DH

Be prepared to give details of the problem and its location.

When the details are recorded a unique reference number is allocated to the problem so that you can track its progress at a later date.

## Street Name Plates



**Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council** is responsible for the provision & repair of Street Name Plates.

**Litter and rubbish** are dealt with by **Newcastle Borough Council** who, under environmental legislation, is responsible for the tidiness of the Borough including Whitmore Parish.

If you see a problem telephone T: 01782 742529 describing the problem and the specific location.

## Funding for Community Activities

Have you or your organization got a plan that needs funds?

Don't forget that **Community Chest** money may be available.

Whitmore has an allocation of £800 to be given to local groups and organizations for specific projects.

Look for more details on the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council website [www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or speak to the Parish Clerk to find out more.

Applications for 2015-16 need to be in by the end of February 2016.

Community based organizations can also apply for grants for between £100 - £3,000 to support ideas to improve community safety, reduce crime and increase public confidence.

Funding is available from the Police and Crime Commissioner's **People Power Fund** and the next period of funding commences 1st August - 14<sup>th</sup> September. More details from the Clerk or from [www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk).

## Promote your Activity, Club & Organisation

The Parish Council wants to support people that run existing clubs, activities & organisations & who want to set up an activity. Please contact Wendy Kinson Parish Clerk to learn how to feature in the

Parish Council Newsletter and other Parish Council initiatives. [wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk)

## Help us keep the parish planters watered

The Parish Council has improved the standard of our tub planting this year by engaging with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. It would be helpful if people could get involved in keeping the

planters watered, particularly in hot weather. Councillor David Alcock is coordinating the watering arrangements. If you can help please get in touch. M: 07748 637752 E: [david@synchromortgages.co.uk](mailto:david@synchromortgages.co.uk)

# Summer Holiday Activities

## FISHING COMPETITIONS

Your local officers will be running  
fishing competitions

### CUDMORE FISHERIES

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September**

**10am-3pm**

**Competitors to arrive by  
9am for 10am start**

Have you ever tried fishing?

Would you like to have a go?

Why not enter these competitions

**FREE OF CHARGE**

Age group 10 to 16 with parents and guardians  
welcome to attend

Local officers will be supervising

First come first serve as we are restricted to 20  
places

Equipment available to loan on the day

**For more information and book your place  
please contact:**

PCSO 16266 Colin Hodgkinson, PCSO 8964 Sue  
Durber PCSO 8951 Ian Blythe On 101 Ext 5643 or

Email: colin.hodgkinson@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk  
Sue.durber@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk  
Ian.blythe@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

## Youth Bus

An initiative from County Cllr David Loades will see a fully equipped 'Youth Bus' visiting Whitmore regularly from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Keep a look out for more information (on notice boards, at bus stops and in the 'Station Stores') about the place and time.

## Scouts

Whitmore's active and successful Scouts and Cubs are also hoping to run events at Whitmore during the summer holidays.

## Playing Field

Remember the big playing field at Whitmore Village Hall and the Children's play equipment.





# Summer Holiday Activities

**Madeley Parish Council Subsidised Sporting activities**

**Leycett Cricket Club**

**Children ages 7- 13 years**

**Week 1 - 21st, 22nd, 23rd July**

**Week 2 - 28th, 29th, 30th July**

**Week 3 - 4th, 5th, 6th August**

**Week 4 - 11th, 12th, 13th August**

**All sessions 10am - 3pm**

**only £5 per day [£3 for siblings]**

**Fully Qualified Professional Coaches –**

**For more information and to book your place**

**please call Debbie Burns on 07977561989 /email  
debbieburns123@hotmail.co.uk**



## Sunday Bus Service

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, Staffordshire County Council is withdrawing its funding for the X64 Sunday bus service, at a saving of £32,000. This may well have implications for the future running of any Sunday bus service through the Parish.

## Mobile Library Service

A consultation is under way regarding the Mobile Library Service and Staffordshire County Council hopes to save £350,000. The proposed changes will not affect the service to Whitmore Parish.

## Community Speed Watch

Is a locally driven initiative where active members of the community join together with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce speeds. Volunteers undergo training.

If you are interested please contact Ian Shaw CSW Coordinator, Safer Roads Partnership T: 01785 232702 or the local coordinator Councilor Geoff Corbett 07906 912722

## 96<sup>th</sup> Whitmore and Baldwins Gate Scout Group

Whitmore & District Village Hall  
**Cubs for Boys & Girls**

Age 8 – 10<sup>1/2</sup>

Thursday 6.30 to 8.00pm

**Scouts for Boys & Girls**

Age 10<sup>1/2</sup> 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](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

We are also looking for volunteers  
to get involved. If this is of interest  
please get in touch

## Whitmore & District Village Hall



### Regular Events

<b>Sunday</b>	Tai Chi 6.00pm Last Sunday of the Month CAR BOOT SALE 8.00am
<b>Monday</b>	Yoga 9.45am Tai Chi 5.30pm & 6.00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Karate 7.00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Indoor Bowls 2.00pm (Winter) 1st Wednesday of the Month Parish Council 7.00pm 2nd Wednesday of the Month Women's Institute (September to February)
<b>Thursday</b>	Art Group 9.30am Cubs 6.30pm 1st Thursday of the Month Village Hall Committee Meeting 7.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	Indoor Bowls 2.00pm Dance Club 8.00pm

To book the Hall contact  
**Kris Holbrook T: 01782 680481**

### Book the Village Hall

Parties, Weddings,  
Anniversaries, Charity  
Fund Raising Events, &  
Meetings  
**Kris Holbrook**  
**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  
or outside pitch  
No Booking required



**Staffordshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service  
preventing • protecting • responding

## Home Fire Risk Check

### Get your free smoke alarms and fitting today

Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service offer a free home fire risk check service which involves a Firefighter or Service Technician visiting you in your home to give fire safety advice, discuss escape routes and fit free lifesaving equipment such as smoke alarms and fire guards.

### How to book a check

The FREEPHONE number to ring to request a check is 0800 0241 999 and on ringing you will be able to arrange a mutually convenient time for the visit to take place. Text: 07528 983101

Book online [www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk) HOME FIRE RISK CHECK All Firefighters and Service Technicians carry an I.D card and will travel in Service vehicles. Although checks to the elderly and vulnerable are prioritised, the service is open to everyone.

# Chairman's Message

Since our April Newsletter, the General Election and also the local elections to Town and Parish Councils have all taken place. We now have a majority Conservative government which will undoubtedly bring new challenges to be dealt with and hopefully also new opportunities.

At local level, we are very pleased that Cllr David Loades (Borough and County) and Cllr Paul Northcott (Borough) will continue to be working with us and providing their greatly appreciated support.

The Parish Council has lost three of its eight Councillors, who have stood down for health and or family reasons: Cllr Alan Wilkinson (Chairman), Cllr Bill Murray and Cllr Graham Whieldon.

As the new Chairman, I extend to all of them our heartfelt thanks for all the very valuable work that they have put in during their time with the Parish Council and send them all our very best wishes for the future.

As I write, two new Cllrs have been elected (Judith Oppenheimer and Derek Davies), and are already becoming actively involved in their new role.

Roy Peddie has also now joined us to bring our complement up to full strength.

So, for the Parish Council a new 4 year period has started and we will strive to continue and hopefully extend our efforts on behalf of the Parish.

One very major new initiative is already under way with the decision to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan, as detailed in the article by Cllr Judith Oppenheimer, who is taking the 'Lead' in this project. I look forward to another four interesting years ahead...

**Councillor Ian Webb**

**Parish Council Meetings**  
**Whitmore & District Village Hall**  
**Commencing 7.00pm**  
**Open Forum 7.00 to 7.15pm**  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

# 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: wendy.kinson@tiscali.co.uk



**Councillor Ian D Webb**

**Chairman**  
T: 01782 680 522  
E: Ianandnina.webb@aol.com



**Councillor Geoff R Corbett**

T: 01782 680 645



**Councillor David R Alcock**

T: 01782 680 178  
E: david@synchromortgages.co.uk



**Councillor Carl Evans**

**Vice Chair**  
M: 07775 774 740  
E: carl@carlevans.co.uk



**Councillor Derek Davies**

T: 01782 680383  
E: derodavie@yahoo.co.uk



**Councillor Judith Oppenheimer**

T: 01782 680295  
E: Judith@judithoppenheimer.org.uk



**Councillor Audrey Pedley**

T: 01782 680 985  
E: audreypedley@yahoo.com



**Councillor Roy Peddie**

T: 01782 681016  
E: roy.peddie@btinternet.com