

Whitmore Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019



Chairman's Report Spring 2019

I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide you all with a brief update on the various issues impacting our Parish:-

1. Kier Development behind Gateway Avenue

The site's development progresses with little impact on our Community, with Keith Lawton and I continuing to hold periodic update meetings with Keith Harris, Kier's Contracts Manager.

Breaking news: March 11th: Cllr David Harrison has today been informed by Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council that Kier has applied for road space to start the 4-week installation on April 4th.

2. Potential Bellway development on land off Meadow Way

We learned in November with considerable relief, that Bellway had decided not to proceed with this development. File closed.

GOOD NEWS INDEED! The Borough Council is now able to demonstrate "a deliverable five-year housing land supply list", thereby regaining full control when evaluating Planning Applications for New Development within the Borough.

3. HS2a

It is clear that there is no longer any hope that we can obtain the Whitmore to Madeley Tunnel that we petitioned for, so our objective now is to do whatever we can to minimise the impact that construction of HS2a will have on our Parish.

The second "Additional Provision (AP2)" was duly deposited with Parliament on February 8th. A summary provided to us by HS2, of what is involved, the Consultation Period, with links to the various documents and details of how to Petition, is available on our website www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk (select Parish Council / Official PC Notices / Community Interest Matters / HS2 Notices), and the full documentation is also available for public consultation at the Public Library in Newcastle under Lyme.

The good news: The AP2 confirms that:

- the southern portal of the Whitmore Heath Tunnel has been moved to the south of the A53, lowering the tunnel, so that the A53 will not need to be raised in order for the line to pass under it.

- the A51/A53 junction is to be permanently restructured to improve traffic flow and safety. Indicative timing: duration of works = 6 months (Q3+Q4 in 2020).

- the A519/A500/ M6(jn 15) junctions are also to be permanently restructured. Indicative timing:

duration of works = 12 months (2020 Q3+Q4 plus 2021 Q1+Q2).

- forecasts of maximum construction traffic flows through the above junctions, and along Snape Hall Road, are now significantly lower than previously indicated.

The bad news: As reported in our Autumn 2018 Newsletter, HS2 had assured the Select Committee that our concerns about the noise and visual impacts that the line would have on the residents of Madeley Park Wood had been dealt with and that the line would run through Whitmore Wood "in a deep slot" 13m to 20m deep, such as to be both invisible to, and virtually inaudible to, the residents of Madeley Park Wood. This assertion came completely "out of the blue" and stopped us in our tracks, stunned but absolutely delighted. Unfortunately it has since transpired that no such "deep slot" is, or ever has been, envisaged, and so, as we had feared, Madeley Park Wood residents will indeed be very heavily impacted. I have written to the Chairman of the Select Committee to seek explanation as to how this situation could possibly have come about, and to request that HS2 be required to take action to maximise protection for the residents affected. I understand that my letter was considered by the Select Committee at their meeting on 28th April. Waiting.....

A glimmer of light? A ground swell of concern is growing over the cost of HS2, questioning whether this is the best way to improve our rail network, with suggestions being put forward that HS2a and/or HS2b should be cancelled.....

4. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Plan is now entering the final stages towards being "Made". Please see the detailed update provided by Judith Oppenheimer, elsewhere in this newsletter.

5. A new Whitmore Parish Council website.

I am pleased to confirm the launch of a new WPC website and I commend it to you (www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk). See separate article by Councillor Graham Hutton.

6. Further changes to our Parish Council team

In October, it was with much regret that the Council received the resignation of Cllr Derek Davies due to

pressure of his other activities. I would particularly like to thank him for his work during the three and a half years that he was with us. He was a most active member, taking on an extraordinary number of projects and challenges, and his continued help with some of those activities is greatly appreciated. The Council was very pleased to welcome two new Councillors to our team at the turn of the year, Mrs Amy Bryan and Mr Tim Harris, bringing us back up to full strength. Unfortunately, however, Councillor Daryl Harvey has just resigned due to pressure of his business activities. I wish him every success with these, and thank him for his time with the Council. So, we again have a vacancy. If you are interested in joining the Council to help us with our work, please do contact our Clerk, Mrs Debra Powell, or any of our Councillors, to register your interest and find out more about what is involved.

Ian Webb

Chairman, Whitmore Parish Council

Have your say

You might think that the Parish Newsletter is limited to articles produced solely by the Parish Council but that is definitely not the case. This is a Community newsletter open to all, published by the Parish Council. If you have anything that you feel is of interest to the Community then please feel free to let us have it. The newsletter is published at least twice per year. The exact frequency and timing being very much dependent on having sufficient number of interesting subjects to share with you. For further information, or if you have anything that you wish to be included please contact Debra, our Parish Clerk at parish.clerk@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Calls for volunteers to join the Parish Council have so far met with a resounding silence. Surely there is someone out there who would like to get involved in dealing with the various challenges that we face?

Don't be shy, we need you.

Contact our clerk Debra for details, or any of our Parish Councillors.

Neighbourhood Development Plan - Plan submitted to Borough Council

We are happy to announce that the Parish Council, in its role as the "Qualifying Body", submitted the draft Neighbourhood Plan to Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council on 25 January 2019. This is a major milestone in the preparation of the Plan. From now on the Borough Council will be responsible for taking the Plan through the remaining stages leading up to the local referendum and adoption of the Plan.

The submitted Plan and the legally required supporting documentation are accessible on the home page of the Neighbourhood Plan website: www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk, where they can be read or downloaded.

The Borough Council has decided to repeat two reports that it originally prepared in June 2018. These are "screening" reports for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment. As their names suggest, their purpose is to determine whether the Plan proposals would be likely to have any negative impacts on the environment. This decision by the Council will add an estimated 2 months to the remaining stages of the Plan.

Once the reports have been completed the Plan will be publicised on the Borough Council's website for a period of 6 weeks, after which it will be examined by an Independent Examiner. The Examiner's task will be to review the Plan and determine whether it meets the "basic conditions". The 5 basic conditions are that the Plan must:

- Have appropriate regard to national planning policy
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan
- Be compatible with EU obligations
- Meet human rights requirements.

Any comments that the Borough Council receives during the 6-week publicity period will be passed on to the Examiner. The

Examiner will consider these comments only if they relate to the question of whether the Plan meets the 5 basic conditions. If the Examiner is satisfied that the Plan meets the basic conditions he will then recommend that it proceeds to referendum.

Community participation

There has been an excellent level of community participation throughout the process of preparing the Plan. Community participation in events such as the Roadshows, the Residents' Survey (Questionnaire), drop-in events and the consultations on the draft Plan have contributed significantly to the Plan. Information and comments from the community have helped to shape the policies that will guide future decision making on planning applications and development in the Neighbourhood Area.

The two consultations on the draft Plan (in June-July and September-October 2018) had an excellent level of response, both locally and from the official consultees. Thank you to all those residents who responded to the consultations and contributed their comments. As a result of the consultations we can say that the Plan is now much stronger and the revised policies are more robust. The Environment Agency provided very helpful comments and advice that enabled us to strengthen the Plan's policies relating to the natural environment.

The Borough Council commented that the Plan: "has recognised and responded to the views of the local residents of the three Parishes . . . It is forward-looking and open to changes as community needs develop yet it seeks to retain many of the rural characteristics and heritage that are valued by established long-time and new residents." In other comments the Council said that the Plan: "is the product of a significant amount of hard work by volunteers and the local community; . . . a great deal of community

engagement and consultation has taken place."

Historic England also commented on community participation in the Plan: "We consider that an exemplary approach is taken to the historic environment . . . and that the Plan constitutes a very good example of community led planning." In other comments Historic England said: "The emphasis on the conservation of local distinctiveness through good design and the protection of heritage assets, local green space and important views, along with landscape character is to be applauded."

We received excellent support from the Borough Council during the consultation process, including very helpful meetings at Castle House to review the revised policies. As always, we were ably supported during a particularly busy time by our consultant, Hannah Barter of Urban Vision Enterprise CIC.

Keep up to date on Plan progress

Every issue of "One Way" church magazine includes an article on the Neighbourhood Plan. We know that not everyone in Whitmore parish sees the magazine, so each article is posted on the parish and village hall noticeboards and in the bus stops in Baldwins Gate. You can also read the articles on the website: www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk and click on the "Community engagement" tab.

News from Loggerheads: The referendum on the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan was held on 10 January. The Plan received a "Yes" vote of 91%. This is the first of 5 Neighbourhood Plans in the Newcastle rural area to be completed and it will now be used to decide planning applications in Loggerheads parish.

Maer and District Women's Institute.

Why not join us for a monthly night out.

A coffee /tea and biscuit.

A chat and a speaker.

And a chance to learn new things!

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Maer village hall from March to September.

And at Whitmore Village Hall October to February.

All women welcome.

It's YOUR neighbourhood – please support the Plan!

Please turn out to vote in the Local Referendum

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!

Warm home discount scheme

You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2018 to 2019 under the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March. You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier to find out. The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment. Eligibility

There are 2 ways to qualify for the Warm Home Discount Scheme: you get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit - known as the 'core group' or you're on a low income and meet your energy supplier's criteria for the scheme - known as the 'broader group' How you apply for the Warm Home Discount Scheme depends on how you qualify for the discount. <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

www.whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk

Madeley Practice update (Moss Lane and Baldwins Gate Surgery)

Thank you all for your feedback on our Facebook page that we started last year. It seems that the balance of practice, health and community posts is about right for the majority. We are planning to include posts on additional issues that patients would like to see included over the following months.

Our local CCG has funded additional GP sessions at Bradwell hospital for patients to use in the evening and at weekends. If these appointments are more convenient please do ask our reception team as you won't be able to see these and book them online yourself.

Finally, do look out for the quarterly Practice Newsletters available in the surgery. The Patient Fund and Participation Group have recently written articles on resuscitation and advanced directives as well as updating the notice boards outlining the value of screening offered by the NHS.

If you have any queries or comments you are always welcome to discuss things with any of our team here at the surgery who can advise you further 01782 750274

WHITMORE VILLAGE HALL. NEEDS YOUR HELP

Have you ever been inside our wonderful village hall? Aren't we privileged to have such a facility, not to mention the playing field which is so well looked after by our local Parish Council?

We have however a problem. We need people to help run the hall. At the moment we have an ageing committee and we must have younger people with new ideas. There is a Committee meeting at 19h30 at the Village Hall for about 2 hours on the first Thursday of each month. To continue the successful running of your hall please help!! We need you.

Please contact Mrs Audrey Pedley Telephone number 680985.

Newcastle Rural Community Library Information Hub at Loggerheads We can help "It's Good to Talk" - Learn About Loneliness with others.

Once you start losing things, it's easy to imagine that you'll get used to losing the rest. Maybe that's why we think older people learn to deal with loneliness more quickly than the young – because they've already lost homes, friends, wives, husbands, even their minds. We think they have less to look forward to. Studies suggest that children and adults feel equally strong emotions, but adults have had a lifetime to learn to regulate the experience and expression of those emotions. They have had more time to learn which works for them, and the context. Yet the actual feelings are the same, no matter your age. There is always grief at the loss of those things that tie you to who you think you are – your beloved dog, your best friend who moves away to a new school, your children, your spouse. That grief is yours to bear alone. There are over 9 million people who feel lonely in the UK – a fifth of the population. Sixty-three percent of widowers, and 51% of the same age group who are divorced or separated, say they feel lonely. In statistical terms, there is a loneliness 'epidemic'. A condition that increases the risk of mortality by 26%. Loneliness can strike at different times in life and it can strike any one of us. You don't even need to be alone to feel lonely. Some of the loneliest times can be when you are in a crowd of people and wish you weren't, or in a double bed with someone, knowing you are no longer loved. It can also be hard for other people to understand that you can feel loneliness and grief for things that you've never actually had: the never-born children, the relationship that never was, the missed opportunities, the life you wanted but weren't brave or lucky enough to have. The lack of these things is real and it hurts. So why not: 1 Regardless of weather, mood or anything else, get up and go outside. Being outside shakes your brain and gets you through that moment when it all feels too much. Don't try to get past or get over the 'bigger issue', just celebrate the fact that you got through that one moment. It is a war and you must win a series of tiny victories. Celebrate each of them. 2 Accept that others won't understand. They don't and they won't, so get over it and accept the fact that no one has a clue how sad and lonely you are. It's okay to be lonely. People who have a similar experience may have some useful ideas, but this is your journey, not theirs. 3 Volunteer and reach out to others to help them. It will make you feel a new and reinvigorated. 4 Be grateful. This is actually the single most important thing you can do to feel less lonely. Give thanks for your home, your job, your friends, your family and your health. Then, just wait. After a certain period, you won't feel lonely all the time. So, drop in to see us or join one of our groups or start a group or coffee morning yourself or just join us and volunteer locally when you want, we can help, and we want to help. Contact the volunteers at the Library or myself, David Loades, on 07960 131408 and please leave a message. If I'm not there I will get back to you.

Whitmore Parish Council has a new website

Whitmore Parish Council has a new website. Please have a look. The old one was a bit dated and we took the opportunity with the new Data Protection law coming into effect to update it. We have tried to be as simple and intuitive as possible to make the new website easy to navigate but always welcome feedback. Please send any to Councillor Graham Hutton (email address is on the website).

The really exciting element though is we are now taking adverts for local businesses.

If you want to advertise your business and live within 2 miles of the parish then you can have up to 2 pages of a PowerPoint presentation (as a pdf) for £50 a year (in advance of us posting the advert).

Community Speed Watch

Are you fed up with the number of motorists who have total disregard for the safety of our community as they speed along the A53 through Baldwins Gate and Whitmore? Would you like to do something positive to address the problem? If you answered YES to either of these questions, then have you considered joining our small group of Community Speed Watch volunteers.

Currently we comprise of just two persons. Ideally, we need a group of 5 volunteers to better monitor our chosen roads and to provide the Police with sufficient data to demonstrate the severity of the problems we are facing daily.

After the initial training, which last about 3 hours, we meet every couple of weeks for one hour. The more volunteers we have will require less commitment.

We use hand held speed detection radar equipment at pre-identified locations in the villages to check vehicle speeds. Registration

numbers and makes of vehicles exceeding the local speed limit are recorded. These details are then collated and passed to Staffordshire Police, where they are then processed and letters are issued.

Drivers found to be speeding are issued with an advisory warning letter requesting that they slow down and observe the speed limit. If the same vehicle is caught on a second or subsequent occasion by any Community Speed Watch team a follow-up final letter is issued.

If it is identified that the vehicle has been caught speeding through any Speed Watch for the third time within 12 months, the background of the vehicle will be checked and information will be passed to the appropriate local policing team who will organise for the keeper to be visited and warned.

The more information that we can provide to the Police the more likely that they will pay us a visit with the mobile speed detection van, which will result in an immediate fine for

anyone caught speeding.

The Parish Council are considering providing some speed warning signs on either end of the A53 in Baldwins Gate. The Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership can assist with funding a project and the Council will be looking to put forward a bid for a grant in the near future. To support an application for funding it is necessary to have up to date information on the number of vehicles travelling along our village roads together with evidence of recorded speeds. Currently there are only two volunteers trained and ideally we could do with several more trained volunteers to carry out monitoring in the coming months. Training is provided free by Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership.

If the thought of doing something positive to address the problem appeals to you, then please contact Councillors Geoff Corbett, 07906912722, or Councillor Tim Harris 01782 681150

A CARING AND SHARING COMMUNITY?

What is a Caring Community?

Here in Whitmore, Baldwins Gate and Madeley Park Wood we have a picturesque rural setting, in which we can enjoy living, playing, shopping and working, whatever our age. Much of that beneficial quality of life is down to the hard work and commitment of our Parish Council, Churches and various voluntary groups serving our community. In my past role as your Borough Councillor, I have supported and partnered those groups on a regular basis and it is my intention to continue, as a resident of Baldwins Gate and in my current role as Vice-Chairman of the Newcastle Rural Locality Action Partnership (LAP), to contribute to the development of an even richer caring community.

A caring community is one, in which residents, public, private and community groups work together to improve the quality of life and foster a community spirit, in order to create a rewarding, cohesive and healthier area for all. In many respects and illustrated in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan our community is moving positively towards this goal but are there still further opportunities to benefit our residents?

Do we need a Caring Community?

Last year many residents expressed a wish to become more involved in the community through either volunteer work or membership of new groups offering different and enjoyable activities, especially for those residents who want to break out from the confines of their “four walls” and meet and develop new friendships in shared experiences.

What are the Benefits of a Caring Community?

The Compassionate Frome project launched in 2013 by a local GP and further developed into the “Active and In Touch” Community Project has seen a forgotten corner of Somerset transformed into a vibrant, self-confident, and healthier community. Recent reports show dramatic falls in GP surgery visits and emergency hospital admissions, a stronger community fellowship and a feeling of individual self esteem and community well being; the sort of community to which individuals and families “beat a path” to live and to remain, whatever their ages.

How can we create a Caring Community?

Volunteers are crucial to establishing and maintaining the Frome “Active and In Touch” model. Indeed, closer to home, Loggerheads has developed a similar range of enjoyable activities, supported by a group of community-spirited residents, organising meetings, outside visits, helping with shopping and driving patients to the doctors or the hospital.

It is my hope that by drawing upon the best practice at both Frome and Loggerheads, we can together forge a fulfilling, caring and sharing community for all here in our wonderful locality. Please help me to develop this ambitious project.

Interested? How can you help?

If you are interested in becoming part of an “Active and In Touch” programme as either a Member simply enjoying the activities or as a supportive Volunteer, please contact David Harrison either by telephone/text to 07796 8411112 or by email to: d.harrison726@btinternet.com

David J. Harrison
Vice Chairman
Newcastle LAP

Village Appearance Report

March 2019 What an amazing February it has been, the good weather has certainly brought out the flowers and blossom early, hopefully March will remain calm and not do any damage with wind or snow. Our Contractors have already done a grass cut on the main A53 Roundabout as well as Jubille Gardens and Chapel Green.

Litter The big issue facing the Parish is the ongoing problem of “Litter”. The A53 and A5182 Trentham link seem to get the worst of it with endless amounts of plastic bottles and rubbish just being thrown out of vehicles. We are seeking external help but it is really a self-help operation with communities doing the tidying up themselves.

Small Gas Cylinders [Nitrous Oxide]. The tipping of these small gas cylinders is becoming a problem, in Butterton we are getting a continuous amount. These Gas Cylinders have contained nitrous

oxide. Do let us know if you have them dumped near you and we will report to the Police to follow up.

New Ideas If you have any ideas as to how we might continue to enhance the appearance of the Parish then do please contact us.

Road / Pavement Damage Issues We continue to monitor the poor road surface and inform Staffordshire Highways of any issues - the dirty / damaged traffic bollards and surface near to the Mainwarring Pub is a regular problem. Once again please inform us of anything that you think needs attention. The Main Roundabout on the A53 at Butterton is continually getting damaged by large commercial vehicles - we will get the current damage repaired but this seems another on-going issue which has been reported to Staffs Highways.

Councillor Colin Perry

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

Book the Village Hall

Parties, Weddings, Anniversaries, Charity Fund-Raising Events and Meetings

Krys Holbrook

Bookings Secretary

T: 01782 680481

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

Beavers for Boys and Girls

Contact the Scout leaders for details

96thwhitmorescoutgroup@gmail.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 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.

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.

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

Whitmore Parish Council



Councillor Geoff R Corbett
Parish Appearance Group
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Councillor Colin Perry
Vice Chairman and Chair of Parish
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Councillor Tim Harris
M: 07976 532305
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Directly Supported by
County Councillor Paul Northcott regarding
County matters
T: 07900 600009
E: paul.northcott@staffordshire.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Whitmore and District Village Hall
Commencing 7pm
Open Forum 7pm to 7.15pm

Wednesday 3 April 2019
Wednesday 22 May 2019 - Annual Meeting at 7pm. Regular Meeting at 7.30pm
Wednesday 29 May 2019 - Parish Assembly
Wednesday 3 July 2019
Wednesday 7 August 2019