

Whitmore & District Village Hall



Regular Events

Monday	9.45am Yoga Club (Term time only) 6pm Tai Chi 1 (Form)
Tuesday	10am to 12noon Line Dancing 7pm Karate Club
Wednesday	9.30am to 11.30am Play and Stay 2pm Indoor Bowling Club (October to March) 5pm to 6pm Junior Sports Activities (Age group – Infants to 6yr old – Term time only) 6.30pm to 7.30pm Beavers (Age group – 6yr old to 8yr old – Term time only) 7.30pm to 9pm Scouts 7pm Parish Council Meeting on the first week of the month 7.30pm Maer W.I. on the second week of the month (September to February)
Thursday	9.30am Art Group 6.30pm to 8pm Cubs (Age group – 8yr old to 10yr old) 7.30pm Village Hall Committee meeting on the first week of the month
Friday	2pm Indoor Bowling Club (October to March) 8pm Dance Club
Sunday	6pm Tai chi 2 (Martial)

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, Anniver-
saries, 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
Beavers

Age 6 - 8

Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm

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 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.

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.

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

Whitmore Parish Council



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Parish Council Chairman
T: 01782 680522
E: ian.webb@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk



Councillor Roy Peddie
T: 01782 681016
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Councillor Colin Perry
Vice Chairman and Chair of Parish
Appearance Group
M: 07831 484244
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**Directly Supported by
County Councillor Paul Northcott regarding
County matters**
T: 07900 600009
E: paul.northcott@staffordshire.gov.uk



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Councillor Graham Hutton
M: 07976 641601
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**Directly Supported by
Borough Councillor David Harrison regarding
Borough matters**
M: 07796 841112
E: david.harrison@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

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

Wednesday 5 September 2018
Wednesday 3 October 2018
Wednesday 7 November 2018
Wednesday 5 December 2018

Whitmore Open Day and Autumn Fayre

Saturday 13 October 2018 10am - 3pm

Whitmore Village Hall

We are now arranging our seventh annual event of this kind.

Local Groups and organisations have been invited to take part so come along and find out what is happening in the Whitmore area.

Lots of stalls and crafts. Refreshments available.

Find out more by contacting Debbie Burns on 07977 561989

Whitmore Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018



Chairman's Report Autumn 2018

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 without any serious impacts on our Community and we continue to enjoy a very good relationship with the site management. Two items of particular interest:-

(a) Kier has carried out the promised improvements to the public footpath alongside the railway, between Station Cottages and the corner of the site (pathway levelled and compacted surface installed with wooden edgings set flush to the path surface + stile moved to the far corner of the site). WPC is making arrangements to keep the pathway clear of bramble and nettle ingress when access between the developed site and the pathway becomes available (currently fenced off for safety).
(b) Installation of the pedestrian crossing across the A53, adjacent to the exit from Gateway Avenue, is due to commence imminently. Unfortunately, County Highways have not been able to agree to the installation of protective pedestrian barriers that we have pressed for, due to the lack of space to install them on the narrow pavement on the north side of the road. We will have to see how it works in practice.

2. Potential Bellway development on land off Meadow Way

History: the original Planning Application 16/01101/FUL was "Refused". Bellway registered an "Appeal" against that decision, and also put forward a Revised PA 17/01024/FUL which was subsequently also "Refused". Bellway has since withdrawn the Appeal re 16/01101/FUL due to new evidence being submitted too late for them to prepare a defence. The "system" permits an Appeal to be lodged against the Refusal of the revised PA anytime up to October 26th.....

3. HS2a / the "Longer Deeper Tunnel" / Boreholes

As most of you will already be aware, despite strenuous representations by Staffordshire County Council (SCC), Whitmore PC, Madeley PC and the Whitmore and Madeley Action Group, the Select Committee (SC) made a "decision in principle" NOT to recommend the Longer Deeper Tunnel (now officially referred to as the "Whitmore to Madeley Tunnel W2MT") on grounds of cost and

fears of serious problems of water ingress during construction. A strong challenge on both counts, raised by a tunnel expert put forward by SCC, was brushed aside. Their decision has now been confirmed in a new report.

The good news is that:-

a) HS2 told the SC that the southern portal of the short Whitmore Heath Tunnel will be moved to the south of the A53, lowering the tunnel so that the A53 will no longer need to be raised, thus avoiding what would have been a major cause of traffic disruption during the 18 months that that the raising was due to take and that this will also lower the River Meece viaduct (we don't yet know by how much).

b) HS2 also told the SC that the line will run through Whitmore Wood "in a deep slot" such that it will not be visible to, or heard by, the residents of Madeley Park Wood.

c) HS2 also gave a formal "Assurance" that no Construction Traffic will use Manor Road between the old rail line and the A53 (thus protecting Madeley Park Wood).

d) HS2 has been charged by the SC to work closely with SCC on long term improvements to our road network, which we understand will include the A51/A53 and A5182/A519 junctions.

e) HS2 also formally apologised for the manner in which they have treated the residents of Whitmore Heath and were charged by the SC to introduce measures to ensure that the residents on the Heath are provided with a much higher level of support and advice than has so far been the case.

f) HS2 has now published an initial draft report on the findings of the boreholes drilled on Whitmore Heath, concluding that ground conditions are as expected, and confirm the validity of their proposed boring program for the tunnel construction.....

My Comment:

The changes (a to c) are expected to be confirmed in a second Additional Provision which is due to appear in December / January. We await such formal confirmation with bated breath.....(fairly confident of (a) but somewhat less so of (b), (c) is guaranteed. (e) measures are already being put in place and we must hope that they are effective....). As I write, there now seems very little or no prospect of overturning the refusal of the W2MT. Feedback just received from Sir Bill Cash, and from Jeffery Lefroy, is that neither the Select Committee nor the Secretary of State are interested in revisiting the question, and SCC also confirm that they cannot see how the decision could now be challenged since the consultation period is closed. Glimmer of hope - will this section of HS2 survive the tumult, and soaring cost projections that are being put about, in London....?

I would like to register my personal thanks to Mrs

Sheila Ramage who has been an absolute inspiration and unflagging force in sourcing and compiling the "fact file" that underpinned our representations to the Select Committee.

4. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The preparation of the Plan continues on schedule. The latest situation is reported by the Steering Group elsewhere in this Newsletter. BRAVO indeed to the Steering Group for their excellent work and dedication to the Project.

5) Joint Local Plan and Revised NPPF

The results of the JLP Consultation period are still awaited. The revised NPPF has now been published 24th July and its effects will need to be carefully considered.

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 - Nearly there!

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has now entered the final stages that will lead up to the Local Referendum.

There was an excellent level of participation in the Local Consultation that ended on 31 July and the policies of the Draft Plan received a very high level of support. Taken together, these policies will deliver the overall aim of the Plan, which is to protect the rural character of the Neighbourhood Area while allowing for appropriate development. “Development”, in this context, means new development, extensions to existing buildings, replacement dwellings, and adaptation of old or disused buildings to new uses. A theme that emerged strongly from comments received was the need for bungalows and other house types suitable for the needs of older members of our local community. This simply reinforces a need that was expressed 2 years ago in the Residents’ Survey and that was also identified in the Housing Need Assessment.

Positive comment

Comments were also received from a number of statutory and other consultees, including the Borough Council, the County Council, and Historic England. We are pleased that the Plan has received very positive and supportive comment from these bodies. The Borough Council noted that “a great deal of community engagement and consultation has taken place and this has in turn shaped the vision for the community”.

The Borough Council also commented that the Plan “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. ... It demonstrates a desire to increase and improve the range of current community infrastructure and social facilities, particularly for leisure and recreation to promote active lifestyles and healthy communities across all ages. ... This Plan forges a vision from and for the community that

preserves its rural heritage yet offers opportunities for future change.”

The County Council commented that “an excellent evidence base” has been used on the ecology of the area and that “the objectives for key habitats, including peatland, woodland and meadows are welcomed”. The County Council also made some helpful suggestions for assuring appropriate design when converting historic farmstead buildings to new uses and for assuring the protection of landscape character.

Historic England’s comments include: “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.” Their comments conclude: “We consider that an exemplary approach is taken to the historic environment of the Parishes and that the Plan constitutes a very good example of community led planning.”

Guided by local input

The Neighbourhood Plan has been guided throughout by input from the community which told us a number of important things:

- (1) how the community relates to the Neighbourhood Area and what it values about the character of the area;
- (2) what the community values about existing facilities and what improvements or additions are needed;
- (3) the community’s perceptions about housing needs and appropriate sizes for housing developments;
- (4) what can stay the same and what needs to change for the better;
- (5) how the community would like the Neighbourhood Area to develop generally during the coming years.

As a community we can all take pride and satisfaction from the positive comment that the Plan has received so far.

Madeley Practice Patients Fund and Patient Participation Group

The campaign for this year is on diabetes and many who have visited either surgery will have seen the notice board display in the waiting rooms. Please take the time to read the display as diabetes is on the increase – and it might just be YOU next! Books on diabetes are available – just ask at reception for a copy if you wish to learn more about the subject. Sadly, the N.H.S. has now removed entirely, its funding for a phlebotomist (taker of blood samples) at Baldwins Gate. This means patients having to

travel to Madeley or one of the hospitals which offer the service e.g. Bradwell. Consequently, the Patients Fund has agreed to finance a part time phlebotomist at Baldwins Gate and it is expected this service will be available soon.

We are always looking for new members so if you feel you would like to help shape the future of the practice, then just turn up at 6.30pm at Madeley on (usually!) the first Wednesday in January, March, May, July, September or November. For more information on the group or confirmation of the meeting date, please contact me, Audrey Smithson, on 751298 or 07870 260662.

We Would Welcome Your Suggestions Please

A condition, (known officially as a S106 agreement) was attached to the Planning Application 16/00609/ FUL for the housing development behind The Sheet Anchor. This requires the developer to pay a contribution of £20,601 towards the provision of public open space” to be used for (quote) “the provision or enhancement of public open space within the immediate locality of the property, enhancement and/or maintenance of facilities thereon, including play equipment, playing pitch,

hard and soft landscaped area, roads, paths, furniture structure, buildings or other facilities”. (Unquote). The Parish Council is at present considering the following list of potential projects (with approximate costings net of VAT) subject to these monies being made available to us (currently waiting).

- 1) resurface (asphalt) the pathway through Jubilee Gardens (£ 88k - £15k depending upon specification).
- 2) clean out and plant the area under the trees in Jubilee Gardens to make it suitable for picnicking / relaxing in the shade (£ £2k)

Forging New Friendships And Business Opportunities – Growing Partnerships And Helping To Build A Vibrant Community

I am delighted to have the privilege of serving as the Borough Councillor for the Maer and Whitmore Ward for the next four years and I will be your voice in our Borough Council in what will be a challenging period of change.

As a member of the new Conservative-led Council, I shall be working hard with our Independent and Liberal Democrat partners to ensure that all our residents enjoy the benefits of living and working in our Borough.

Like many rural communities, we face the challenges of protecting our green spaces whilst allowing limited and attractive affordable housing developments for young and old alike.

For this reason, I am pleased to give my support to the recently published draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and to working with our three local Parish Councils to ensure that the Borough delivers on the “right homes in the right places” in the Joint Local Plan.

All local governments face a funding squeeze and budget-tightening in the near future but I shall be doing my best to secure value-for-money on projects within our ward as well as across the Borough. I will be happy to hear your views on such issues as and when they arise.

Creating a Caring Community

In my election leaflet I referred to a programme in Frome, Somerset called “Active and In Touch”, which brought together at events, all those individuals, who for a variety of reasons found themselves suffering from a sense of loneliness and social isolation. I have met quite a few residents, particularly our Senior Citizens, who are experiencing such feelings. Connecting lonely and isolated people with networks of ‘supportive friends’ can bring about positive change in a relative short period of time.

In Frome the group has a network of volunteers who reach out to people and befriend them. It also runs weekly meetings for people to socialise with others, as well as other social trips and activities. The change in the outlook and wellbeing of some of Active and In Touch’s beneficiaries, thanks to the group’s work is astonishing – new and lasting friendships, improved health and fewer visits to the doctors!

My plan is to establish a group meeting in Whitmore Village Hall on a regular basis.

If you are interested in joining such a group or becoming a volunteer, please call me on (01782) 681155.

Showing talents, skills and micro-businesses.

I have had the privilege of meeting residents of all ages who have developed an enormous range of skills and abilities, some of which are used in micro-businesses but many of which are merely hobbies.

My aim is to launch a series of regular “showcase” events, at which professionals and amateurs alike can display and even offer for sale the products of their expertise and hidden talents, and thereby stimulating new and further business opportunities. Whatever your talents or skill: art and drawing, joinery, wood turning or picture framing, cake making or decorating, beauty treatments and hairdressing, metal working, painting and decorating, gardening and landscaping, paving and building, car valeting and repairs, coffee and chocolate making to name but a few, please contact me on 07796 841112 or email me d.harrison726@btinternet.com

Monthly Surgeries

Call in and talk to me at the Loggerheads Library between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the third Monday of the month.

by David Harrison

Football pitch

As residents are aware the junior size football pitch at the Village Hall is now available for casual use. If anyone has a junior football team looking for a football pitch to play regular games please contact the Parish Clerk, the pitch is also acceptable for “Walking Football” so if anyone’s interested in taking part or organising such an event please do not hesitate and get in touch with us.

The smallest public library in Staffordshire

It may be small, but it’s friendly, it’s fun, it’s brimming with good books and it’s so much more than a library. But where is Staffordshire’s smallest public library?

It’s just along the road in Loggerheads, and it’s located in one of the units in the parade of shops opposite the Co-Op in the centre of the village.

Loggerheads Library, or the Loggerheads Community Library Hub to give it its proper name, is open on 5 days a week and is one of the growing number of Community Managed Libraries (CMLs) in Staffordshire. A team of volunteers are responsible for the day-to-day running and management, with guidance from the co-ordinator of the Newcastle area CMLs. The team are mostly Loggerheads residents, with some from Cheshire, Shropshire, Maer and Baldwins Gate. The Library is completely under local control, although the stock is purchased and owned by the County Library, which also owns the premises.

We have an excellent collection of hardback and paperback books, for all ages. There’s always something new on the shelves, as we constantly receive new books, as well as stock that is rotated around the County Library branches. Crime and thrillers is by far the most popular genre of adult fiction, followed by general fiction. We also have good sections of large print and audio, and a non-fiction section.

The children’s collection contains books for all ages and reading abilities, from beginner and early readers to young teen fiction, as well as non-fiction. Popular authors include Roald Dahl, Julia Donaldson, Jeff Kinney (the Wimpy Kid series), Daisy Meadows, David Walliams, Holly Web and Jaqueline Wilson. And we have two sets of Harry Potter! For our youngest borrowers there is an excellent and very popular collection of board and picture books.

If you can’t find what you want, our friendly volunteers can order a book for you and you will receive notification by email or text when it arrives at the Library, often within a week.

How to join

Our volunteers can register new users and issue them with a Staffordshire County Library card. If you already have a library card you can use it to borrow from any of the county’s libraries. You can also return your books to any library, not just the one from which you borrowed them. How to become a Library volunteer

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Loggerheads Community Library Hub please email info@lcis.info or phone David on 07960 131408.

What else is happening at the Library?

- Computers and photocopying: We have 2 public use computers (free to use) and a printer (small charge per page), as well as a copier (small charge per page).

- Local activities and services: The well-used noticeboard has information about activities, events and organisations in the Loggerheads, Keele, Madeley, Whitmore and Market Drayton areas. We also carry a good collection of leaflets and brochures on topics ranging from public services to events and leisure activities in the Newcastle and Market Drayton areas and further afield.

- Local walks: A selection of locally produced leaflets

and booklets are available about walks in the Loggerheads area. Prices range from free to £2.00.

- Summer Reading Challenge: Each year the Library takes part in this national scheme that aims to keep primary school age children reading during the long summer holiday.

- Second-hand books: We have hardback and paperback books on sale and are always pleased to receive books. All sale proceeds go to the Loggerheads Community Library Hub funds.

- Jigsaws: We have a growing collection of jigsaws that are available to borrow. We are also looking to launch a weekly puzzle club that will meet at the Library.

- Dementia Awareness: The Loggerheads Dementia Friendly Community project is based in the Library. Two sessions were held in June, with support from the Borough Council.

- Knit and Natter: This new group will meet from 10:00 to 12:00 on the last Wednesday of each month, starting in August. Come along with your knitting or crochet to learn, help others or just enjoy the company and form new friendships.

- Photography competition: This competition was open to entrants of all ages during the summer.

- Room available: Outside the opening times, the Library is available for bookings by local groups, in return for a donation. Seating for up to 25. Telephone email info@lcis.info or phone 07960 131408 for further information.

- County and Borough Councillor surgeries: 3rd Monday of the month, 11:00–13:00. Our County Councillor and our Borough Councillor attend these surgeries.

- Police surgery: 1st Friday of the month, 16:00–17:30.

Come along to Loggerheads Library!

So, come along and visit the Loggerheads Community Library Hub. From the outside we may look small, but we aim to do everything in a big way. Whether you come to borrow a book (or two or a few); or to look for local information or offer your services as a volunteer or join in an activity; or if you just come to have a look (and see what a great little library it is!), you will be given a warm welcome by our friendly volunteers.

Library Hub opening times	
Monday:	10:00–13:00
Tuesday:	14:00–17:30
Wednesday:	Closed
Thursday:	9:00–13:00
Friday:	14:00–17:30
Saturday:	10:00–13:00
01630 673117	

The Border Car service continues to operate

The service operates Monday to Friday between 7am and 5pm, between the West Coast Mainline in Baldwins Gate and Service points Westwards as far as Ashley, Loggerheads, Eccleshall, Market Drayton..... Picks you up from where you are, takes you to where you want to go, and brings you back at your agreed time.

Fares are:-

Adults £3.50 single or £5.00 return
Children and Concessions £3.00 single or £4.00 return.

Journeys need to be pre-booked by calling 07743 456 262 and can be booked up to a month in advance but no less than two hours before travel, subject to availability.

NB: The service is unavailable morning and afternoon for a short period during term time as it is covering a school transport route.

Parish Appearance Report August 2018

The maintenance of all the Flower Tubs and Planters throughout Baldwins Gate is a major expense and this year we awarded the contract to Elmside Nurseries at Madeley.

The contract covers regular maintenance throughout the summer replacing the odd dead plant plus fresh compost and feeder, so hopefully they will all look much better and brighter.

That said with the on-going dry weather we have had to co-opt a number of people to help with regular watering - HELP - if you live in BG do feel free to carry a can and water some of the tubs. We have extended the Grass Cutting contract to include a number of extra areas and generally the weekly work is keeping the Parish looking neat and tidy. If anyone has some ideas of additional areas to maintain then do please let us know.

Parish Communications, Website & Events

Dear residents your Parish Councillors have been considering how best we communicate with residents both to give you information and to receive information from you helping us to have a better and more inclusive community. To this end the Council now has a communications sub-group that considers matters such as our website, events and the newsletter. Of course, the new data protection regulations are now in place and we have factored this in to how we do things now and in the future.

We live in a digital age so that primarily, the website and email will be our fastest method of communication. The Parish Council does not process information but if you register on the new website (more on that later) when it is available you will be able to receive alerts as they are available. Because of data protection you will have to sign up for alerts but can have your name removed at any time. The newsletter will be produced twice a year and distributed to each household in the

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.

WHITMORE & DISTRICT PARISH HALL

The Trustees of Whitmore and District Village Hall would be pleased to hear from residents within the locality who would like to consider becoming part of the management team of one of the finest village halls in the area. Our long serving Treasurer is shortly to retire and our Secretary is faced with the problem of a vastly increased workload. Whilst filling both of these important positions is a priority we would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining our committee. Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings which take place on the first Thursday of each month 7-30 pm at the village hall. Or contact Claud Rowley, Chairman. E-mail claudrowley@aol.com Tel 01782 680801 Mobile 07504132259

Weed Control along the A53 is the responsibility of the Borough Council and they do spray twice throughout the summer. All the Road Signs are maintained by the County Council and we regularly send requests for cleaning and cutting back trees / shrubs so that they can be seen clearly.

Footpath maintenance is the responsibility of the County Council’s “Pathways” Section. If you find any problems during your walks, best to contact the Section directly in the first instance, or contact us to progress the situation with the County Council for you. Be aware however that tightening financial constraints mean that Pathways’ ability to respond to anything other than serious problems (for example, a tree having fallen or a fence having been erected, blocking the path) are very limited.

Dog Owners - generally we have very responsible dog owners that remove and take away their dog’s litter, however if you spot anyone NOT doing their

Parish. There may be occasion to distribute other material to households (such as the Neighbourhood Development Plan) but these will all be anonymous. We have felt for some time that our website needs an overhaul. So, we are talking to suppliers about what we might do and looked at a lot of other peoples’ websites for inspiration. The consensus is that we need to produce something simple to navigate, informative and up to date. But there is an overriding matter of is it useful and does it help the community. We are aware that many parishioners run local businesses and that local business adds lifeblood to a community. Therefore, we would like to promote these in a way which is meaningful to both the business and to those looking for services.

However, we believe that simple lists such as Joe Blogs, decorator, 07890 123456 is insufficient as it does not allow the business to say something about what it offers. So, we are going to go down the paid advertisement route for local business. By local we mean within a mile or so of the Parish boundary. The charges will be £50/year and there will be sufficient space for a business to fully express their offer. Graham Hutton will be the lead Councillor for

duty do please remind them or let the Parish Council know.

Litter - Increasingly, or so it seems, there are more people in vehicles deciding that our beautiful parish is the perfect place for their litter. There appears little that we can do to stop them. If you have any idea on how to deter them your councillors are always interested in hearing them. A number of councillors regularly collect litter. If you would like to get a free litter picker and some bags you can contact Street Scene in Newcastle (customerservices@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) and they will deliver them to your door so you can keep your area clear. Also, if you undertake a huge clear up as Councillor Hutton did recently on Manor Road, collecting bags of rubbish, the council will make a special offer to collect the bags for you. Just let them know where you have left them. Take pride in our neighbourhood don’t let the litterbugs ruin our rural charm.

the website and you can contact him at graham.hutton@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk. Anyone interested in advertising on the website should signal this to our Clerk, Debra Powell at parish.clerk@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk and your details will be kept on file. However, it will be some months before this facility will be put in place.

There will be no Festival this year, mainly due to our time being taken up with fighting H52 devastation. But we do intend to have one next year so a date of late May 2019 is our target. Essentially the festival will be held on one weekend. The ballroom dancing club have offered to welcome newcomers for free on the Friday with possible drinks at the end. On the Saturday there will be two discos in the hall (1 junior & 1 adult) with a mobile fish & chip shop delivering suppers and there will be a bar. On the Sunday there will be a service at Whitmore Church (11.00am) and a Whitmore Heath walk with the title “Walk the Heath whilst you can”. Our usual volunteers will be asked to contribute their time to maximise the success of the weekend.

Christmas tree light switch-on – Saturday 15th December 2018

Although it is still some months away, we are turning our minds already to Christmas and the annual switching on of the Parish Christmas tree lights in Baldwins Gate. This year to be held at 5pm on Saturday 15th December. Make a note in your diary.

As in previous years, the occasion will be marked by a family get together, open to all, which will be held in Whitmore Village Hall. This year we intend to make the event bigger and better than in previous years. In addition to the usual Carol singalong, we are planning other activities, which will include refreshments and a licensed bar. A real community occasion and an opportunity for everyone to welcome in the festive season.

Further details will be circulated nearer the time. If you have any thoughts on what could be included, or if you wish to help out, please contact Councillor Derek Davies on 07950384603, or derek.davies@whitmoreparishcouncil.co.uk