

# Brocton Paper Chase

Issue 68

Summer 2023

**Welcome to the Summer edition of the Paper Chase, which we hope you will find interesting.**

Looking ahead to sunny weather:



**Please retain for future reference, as there are some important dates contained within, regarding Community Events and Village Hall Events that will be happening during 2023 for your enjoyment.**

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## Parish Council Update

**Election Update.** The Borough Council and Parish Councils elections took place on 4 May 2023. The election in Brocton was uncontested and the following Councillors were 'elected' for a new 4-year term:

- Robin Bates – voted in as Chairman at the Annual Council meeting on 24 May 2023
- Bethan Smith – voted in as Vice Chairman at the Annual Council meeting on 24 May 2023
- Emma Faunch – Parish Councillor
- Georgina Thomson – Parish Councillor
- Andrea Pugh – Parish Councillor

This means that there are still 2 vacancies on the Parish Council and we need the support of local residents. The current Councillors have lots of ideas and are keen to develop a safe and vibrant community for all of Brocton residents to enjoy, but they need your help. 4 out of

our 5 current Parish Councillors have busy jobs and 3 have young families and it is often challenging for them to juggle all of their other commitments alongside volunteering for their Parish Council, but they do it as they are committed to helping their community. If they can do it, why can't you – you only need to give up a small amount of your time to help??

Our Councillors say a commitment of approx. 2 hours per week, plus attendance at monthly meetings would cover what is needed. Please contact our Parish Clerk to express your interest [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk)

## Parish Community News

**Reminder: Civic Amenity Visits (Bin lorry)** – the dates for the bin lorry visits for 2023 have now been confirmed with Stafford Borough Council. The dates are shown below and will be from 9.00am – 10.00am. The lorry will park in the layby at the top of Chase Road.

- 1 July 2023
- 14 October 2023

Dates for 2024 will be agreed towards the end of this year.

Stafford Borough Council wish all residents using the bin lorry service to be aware of the following: due to a change in legislation, we will no longer be able to accept sofas or armchairs at the 2023 Civic Amenity Visits. This is due to legislation around Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are found in soft furnishings, these items cannot be crushed (as they would be in the collection vehicle) and need to be collected separately either by arrangement with Stafford Borough Council or taken to designated containers at the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Stafford and Stone.

### Wheelie Bin Stickers

As part of Brocton Parish Council's ongoing commitment to improve road safety throughout the village, residents living on Sawpit Lane and Pool Lane will have received two speed stickers with their Paper Chase along with a covering letter. These stickers have been designed to be attached to your green wheelie bin and to either your brown or blue bin. The purpose is to serve as a reminder to drivers passing through the village of the 30mph speed limit.

Please ensure your bins are positioned such that the stickers are clearly visible to passing motorists.

Whilst this might seem a small thing, the stickers are very impactful when the bins are out and will hopefully serve as another opportunity to educate and remind drivers of the speed limit through the village.

Thank you for your support.

## **Brocton Cross Roads**

Many residents will, hopefully, have been made aware of an updated Petition that is being taken round the village, which we hope you will have signed or be willing to sign.

We do appreciate that it may be frustrating for many residents, who regularly use the cross roads, that nothing would appear to be happening about getting any improvements in place and that this has been discussed many times, over many years. However, as a Parish Council we do not have the authority to carry out these improvements ourselves and therefore, we do need to continue to lobby SCC to take this matter seriously. The Parish Council is pleased that we have the support of our SCC Cllr John Francis, who has asked us for updated evidence, in the form of the signed Petition, which he will use to aid his discussions with SCC. Any improvements, if agreed/whatever they may be, are not likely to be addressed in the short term but if we, at the very least, can get SCC to carry out traffic monitoring surveys, then it is a start and we hope that this evidence will provide the much-needed evidence for some improvements to be built into SCC's future Highways improvement plans.

Therefore, if you have not already signed the Petition and wish to do so, please let one of your Parish Cllrs know or contact our Parish Clerk.

We do need you to demonstrate your support as without this, nothing will change.

## All Saints Church



This is our church, small but well loved, situated next to the telephone box on the green, so welcoming and full of love. **1<sup>st</sup> November is All Saints Day** and this year – 2023, will be extra special as it will be 100 years since the church was commissioned as a religious building. There is always a festival in All Saints on 1st November but this year our Parish Vicar, The Rev. Graham Adamson,

will be arranging an extra special service of celebration. Why not come along?

The Christmas Eve carol service is always well supported, as is the crib service, but sadly the congregation has dwindled with many people moving away and the loss of the older generation.

So, this is a plea to all those people who used to be in the nativity, and their parents who came along to support them, together with those who attended Sunday school, to please continue to support your local church, which is full of so many happy memories. They say a village needs a church, a shop, a pub, a bus and a community. Thankfully, we do still have the village hall for the community, but we have lost the bus service, the shop, let us not lose the church – almost the last place in the village where residents can meet weekly to enjoy fellowship, be baptised, get married and say the last goodbye.

### Will you support Brocton in Bloom - 2024?

We are very fortunate to live in such a picturesque village and so, the Parish Council is keen to hear whether there are any green fingered residents who would be interested in forming a volunteer group with a view to looking at some opportunities to make our village bloom!

Ideas we are considering are:

- Open Gardens
- Identifying and managing small areas within the village for wildflower planting

- Bulb planting within verges
- No Mow May
- Identifying whether there are any locations suitable for container planting

The list isn't exhaustive, you may have other ideas to contribute, which we'd love to hear about.

Therefore, if you are interested in having a chat to see how we might be able to take this forward, please email our Parish Cllr Andrea Pugh at [andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com) by **7 July 2023**, Andrea will then arrange a meeting at a time that will hopefully be convenient to all, so that all ideas can be explored. Thank you!

## Sawpit Lane Play Park

You may have noticed some recent additions to Brocton Play Park.



We have planted 7 new trees which were purchased with a grant to celebrate the 7 decades of HM Queen Elizabeth for her Platinum Jubilee celebration in 2022.

The Parish Council wishes to thank Brocton Nursery for their advice and guidance in choosing suitable trees for the park. We hope they will be a lovely addition to the park, for all to enjoy.

## Brocton Bug House

We have also created Brocton Bug House which will provide shelter for many different types of bugs and hopefully increase the variety of bugs we have visiting the play park. This is part of an ongoing project at the park (which started with the installation of the new bird and bat boxes) to celebrate and encourage the local wildlife. We do have more plans for the play park and if you have any ideas then do please let us know.

Next time you are at the play park please add any sticks, leaves or stones. If you have any pine cones, small bricks or ceramic pipes/tiles spare, these would also be helpful.

**Please be careful when inserting any item as some of the wood is rough along the sides.**



## Kings Coronation – May 2023

The Coronation of Kings Charles III was celebrated in the village and no-one was deterred by the prospect of some rain. In fact, it all turned out well for the event and it was lovely to welcome residents and stall holders to the park. Below are some photos taken at the event:







Sadly, there has been a recent incident of vandalism in the village play park. The litter bin was pushed over, with litter scattered around the park, some of the newly planted trees have also been damaged – whilst it may be likely that some of the damage could have been caused by the deer, the actual damage, to at least one of the trees, is much less likely to have been done by deer. Please can we ask for your support to keep a look out for any suspicious behaviour and let your Cllrs or our Clerk know, so that we can deal with it and keep our park safe for all to use.

## Parish Community Events for 2023

**Litter Picks** – the dates for the Parish Litter Picks for 2023 have been agreed and will take place on the following dates:

Sunday, 25 June  
Sunday, 8 October

Meeting place will be 9.30am at the speed camera on Cannock Road, outside of the Chetwynd Arms, where tea and coffee will be available for all volunteers, courtesy of the Chetwynd Arms.

**Halloween** – pumpkin trail. More details to follow.

**Reminder: Christmas 2023** – carol singing on village green. Date to note:

Saturday, 2 December

## Village Hall

**Village Hall events** – Brocton Village Hall Management Committee have advised of the following events that will be taking place during 2023 for your enjoyment:

- 10 June – French Meal Night, from 7.30pm
- 29 July – Family BBQ, from 4.30pm
- 9 September – Last Night of the Proms, from 7.30pm
- 16 September – Rummage Sale, 1.00pm – 3.00pm
- 14 October – Quiz Night, from 7.30pm
- 18 November – Christmas Bazaar, afternoon
- 9 December – Christmas Meal, from 7.30pm

Events may be subject to change. Further details of each event will be publicised nearer the date.

Brocton Village Hall welcomes enquiries about hirings, both on an ad hoc and more regular basis, depending upon availability. Anyone wanting to hire the Hall should use the links available on the Contact Us – BVH ([broctonvillagehall.co.uk](http://broctonvillagehall.co.uk)) page or ring 01785 662868.

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### Information from Staffordshire County Council:

#### Road surface treatment programme

A big part of our yearly investment in highways is preventative maintenance. As we head into spring, the warmer temperatures mean we can carry out more of our preventative schemes on Staffordshire's highways.



Scores of roads across the county will have defects corrected and potholes filled before undergoing a surface treatment over the coming months.

Preventative surface treatments are used to preserve and extend the life of roads that are already in a reasonable condition. This is the reason why the roads we treat may be in a better condition than some others in the county. If roads did not benefit from preventative treatments, they would require replacement three or four times as often.

The preventative maintenance programme runs throughout the summer season (April to September), although our teams carry out preparation works (e.g. pre-patching, ironwork) all year round.

## Pothole priority fund

Our highways crews will be carrying out additional pothole repairs, as part of the recently announced £2 million investment into local priority defects. The money is coming from the £4 million that the county council has received from the Department for Transport's national pothole fund.



We know from feedback from you as residents, that potholes can often frustrate our communities, and whilst this additional funding won't

solve the pothole problem completely, it will allow us to address those defects around the county that are a priority within our neighbourhoods.

County councillors have been working closely with their local Highways team to agree what repairs will be delivered through the additional funding this year.

In addition to the above works, Staffordshire County Council are investing an extra £30m in highways over the next two years, which will see us deliver a number of major reconstruction schemes, junction improvements and the comprehensive repair and surface dressing of hundreds of other roads.

## Information from Stafford Borough Council:

**New SBC Ward Councillor.** On 4 May, Peter Edgeller was elected as Ward Councillor for the Milford Ward, following the decision of Andy Cooper to step down. The Parish Council welcomes Peter and looks forward to working with him for the benefit of our community.

### **New Mayor of Stafford:**



The Parish Council also wishes to take the opportunity to express its thanks to Andy Cooper for his support and commitment to our Parish over the past 4 years. His generosity and positivity will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his new role as Mayor of Stafford Borough. As a Parish Council, we were very proud to be able to send a representative – Cllr Beth Smith, to the ceremony where Andy took up his chains of office. Cllr Mrs Smith is pictured here with the new Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford.

## General Information

**Staffordshire Police** are keen to promote Staffordshire Smart Alert, so if you have not already registered, why not do so. Details of how to do this are shown below:

**Know what's going on  
in your area!**

Register with Staffordshire Smart Alert  
to receive updates from your local  
policing team about crime, engagement  
events and crime prevention advice.

To sign up please visit our website:  
[www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk](http://www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk)

   

## Cannock Chase News

### Footpaths improvements:

Cannock Chase AONB in partnership with The Ramblers are producing an updated series of self-led walks to assist with visitor management at some of the busiest sites on the Chase. The walks predominantly follow Public Rights of Way (PROWS), and in preparation for the launch of the new walks, volunteers are replacing/upgrading waymarkers and posts to help navigation along the routes. The PROWs are marked with blue arrows to identify bridle paths and yellow arrows indicating footpaths – both of which are open to walkers. The new leaflets will contain a map of each route, together with a route description and features of interest to see along the way.



### Toc-H Trail Improvements

We are excited that the first section of the Toc-H Trail improvement is now on the ground. An access path has been put in to connect the Marquis Drive Visitor Centre area to the Toc-H Car Park. Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles are working with a range of local community groups and schools from Hednesford to help make improvements to the trail and viewing platform to ensure it is more accessible for people. Partners involved in this project include AONB, Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase District Council, Hednesford Town Council, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles and Together Active.



**Who do I call if there is a power cut?** If you need to speak in an emergency, perhaps because you are experiencing a loss of power supply, you will now need to contact National Grid and you can use the following numbers: 105, from a landline or mobile or 0800 328 1111 from a landline or 0330 123 5008 from a mobile. \* calls to 0330 numbers cost no more than a local rate number from a landline or mobile.

Should you require any help or assistance with any matter you can contact any of the people below who will be happy to try to help:

## Brocton Parish Councillors

Chairman: Cllr Robin Bates  
[Robin.bates@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:Robin.bates@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk)

Vice Chairman: Cllr Bethan Smith  
[Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Bethanbroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Cllr Emma Faunch  
[Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Cllr Georgina Thomson  
[Georginabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Georginabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Cllr Andrea Pugh  
[Andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Andreabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**Clerk to the Council** - Jill Davies,  
29 The Crescent, Stafford ST16 1ED  
Tel. 01785 598434  
Email: [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk)

## Stafford Borough Council Representative

Cllr Peter Edgeller  
*Phone contact details to follow*  
[pedgeller@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:pedgeller@staffordbc.gov.uk)

## Staffordshire County Council Representative

Cllr John Francis  
01785 665490  
[john.francis@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.francis@staffordshire.gov.uk)

## Member of Parliament

Theo Clarke  
Tel: 01785 252273  
Email: [theo.clarke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:theo.clarke.mp@parliament.uk)  
Website: [www.theo-clarke.org.uk](http://www.theo-clarke.org.uk)

<p><b>WHO DOES WHAT:</b> There are 3 tiers of Local Government in this area and 3 Local Councils with separate responsibilities, Councillors and budgets. The main services for each authority are:</p>		
<p><b>Staffordshire County Council:</b></p> <p>Births, Deaths, Marriages &amp; Civil partnerships Business</p> <p>Advice, Support and care for adults</p> <p>Care for children and families</p> <p>Children and early years</p> <p>Community</p> <p>Education and learning</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Health, wellbeing and leisure</p> <p>Heritage and Archives</p> <p>Libraries and Arts</p> <p>Roads and Highways (<i>including grass cutting &amp; weeds</i>)</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Telephone: 0300 111 8000 Email: <a href="mailto:contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk">contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk">www.staffordshire.gov.uk</a>.</p>	<p><b>Stafford Borough Council:</b></p> <p>Planning Applications &amp; Advice</p> <p>Recycling, bins and waste</p> <p>Council Tax &amp; Benefits</p> <p>Car Parking Road Closures,</p> <p>Abandoned Vehicles</p> <p>Street cleansing, litter &amp; graffiti</p> <p>Parks, sport &amp; fitness</p> <p>Housing &amp; Neighbourhood complaints</p> <p>Business Rates, Licensing, permits &amp; advice</p> <p>Environmental Health</p> <p>Community Safety</p> <p>Voting &amp; Elections</p> <p>Customer contact: 01785 619000 Email: <a href="mailto:info@staffordbc.gov.uk">info@staffordbc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk">www.staffordbc.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Brocton Parish Council:</b></p> <p>Grass cutting – throughout the village and at the Village Play Park on Sawpit Lane</p> <p>Village Play Park – maintained and owned by the Parish Council. Regular inspections of the park supported by volunteers</p> <p>Noticeboards – 3 located at various sites within the village</p> <p>Book Swap – owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with volunteer support</p> <p>Defibrillator – located in the phone kiosk, located at the crossroads with Sawpit Lane and the Cannock Road. Owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with volunteer support</p> <p>Planning – statutory consultee</p> <p>Village Green – owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with volunteer support</p> <p>Bus shelter – located on the main Cannock Road, owned and maintained by the Parish Council</p> <p>Community Speed devices – 2 devices, located along Sawpit and Pool Lane. Owned by the Parish Council with regular battery changing carried out by volunteers</p> <p>Community Speed Watch – equipment owned by the Parish Council</p> <p>Telephone: 01785 598434 Email: <a href="mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk">clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.broctonpc.co.uk">www.broctonpc.co.uk</a></p>