

# Brocton Paper Chase

Issue 69

September 2023

## **Parish Councillor vacancy – Are you Community Minded, if yes, why not join your Parish Council and serve your local community??**

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Brocton Parish Council has a compliment of 7 Parish Councillors, however, only 5 positions are currently filled and we are really keen to fill our 2 vacant posts as soon as possible. The more Councillors we have, the more we can do for the benefit of the community. As a Parish Councillor, you will have the opportunity to help shape and improve the facilities and services within the community. We are always keen to hear what our residents want and whilst we may not be able to deliver everything, when we all work together, we will have some successes that will benefit the community. There are things we want to achieve, for the benefit of our community, however, we cannot do this without the support of willing volunteers, who will give up some of their free time and help make a real difference.

**See page 2 for more details.**

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**LOOKING FORWARD TO HALLOWEEN – SEE PAGE 10 for details**



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### **Parish Councillors vacancies:**

There are 2 vacant positions on the Parish Council and we really do 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 final date the bin lorry will be visiting the Parish for 2023 is shown below. The lorry will park in the layby at the top of Chase Road from 9.00am – 10.00am.

- 14 October 2023

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

**Please don't forget:** 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.

### Litter Pick – June 2023



Thank you to everyone who turned up to support the Parish Litter Pick that took place on Sunday, 25 June 2023. 17 bags of rubbish were collected, which included a caravan window!



## Road Safety in Brocton

Brocton Parish Council have always prioritised the safety of its parishioners on the roads in Brocton. Over the last few years, a lot of work has been carried out by Councillors in supporting initiatives and proposals to keep the roads of Brocton safe by reducing speeding and deterring deer.

### Brocton crossroads

Your Councillors have been working with SCC Councillor John Francis to try to encourage SCC to review the crossroads where Sawpit Lane meets the A34. As a result of the hard work of local residents and your Parish Councillors, a petition of 418 signatures has been given to Councillor Francis which was presented to the relevant committee on 22.7.2023. Thank you to everyone who took the time to sign the petition. We do hope that this petition will encourage SCC to consider improvements to the crossroads in the future to make them much safer for pedestrians and cars. The crossroads has been on the Parish Council's agenda for some time now so we are aware there will be no "quick fix" however, improvements are something the Councillors are keen to continue to insist on.

Please continue to report any accidents or 'near misses' to our Parish Clerk, who is keeping a record, in order that these can be included in any future road improvements that may be identified for the area. We will include an update on the outcome of the petition, together with details regarding any progress that is made with SCC in respect of improvements to the crossroads, in the next edition of the Paper Chase.

### Weight limit through the village

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that a 7.5t weight limit has been approved by SCC from Milford, along Pool Lane and Sawpit Lane through to the A34 Cannock Road. It is our understanding that this will be implemented by SCC through their Integrated Transport Programme, with the relevant signage displayed, within this current financial year.

Although it was well supported by the Parish Council unfortunately, we have been informed that SCC have decided not to lower the speed limit on the Milford to Brocton Road. As residents will know, the speed limit along this route ranges between 40mph to 30mph and both SCC Cllr Francis and the Parish Council were keen to see a consistent speed limit of 30mph applied. SCC conducted a feasibility study, at the request of Cllr Francis, which has recommended the existing speed limits in place remain. However, the installation of other intervention measures, at the section of reduced visibility (bend in front of Dora Rose care

home and house no.60) to naturally lower speeds of vehicles by highlighting the potential hazards were recommended. The measures suggested were parking restrictions, improved signing or a double white line system. At this stage, these are recommendations and we have no firm commitment from SCC that these recommendations will be applied.

### **Bus stop, opposite Chetwynd Arms**

Some time ago, the matter of accessibility onto the bus from this bus stop was raised with the Parish Council, as some residents were concerned that the road surface where the bus stops is uneven and dangerous, particularly when it is icy. The Parish Council has been looking into this matter and had raised it with SCC to see if improvements could be made for the benefit of our residents.

The Chairman of the Parish Council attended a site visit which took place in June, with SCC Cllr Francis and a representative from SCC Highways. The dangerous road surface accessibility of the bus stop location was acknowledged by SCC, who also have a responsibility for the safe maintenance of the retaining wall between the Service Road and the Cannock Road, of which a small section has been damaged. A suggestion was made for the removal of the damaged section of the retaining wall as being the only viable solution to the bus stop accessibility matter, as this would allow the bus stop to be re-located to the north side of the exit from the Service Road, which would also then improve access for the bin lorry and other larger vehicles. SCC agreed that an engineering assessment will be conducted. Unfortunately, no time scale was provided for these works to be completed.

### **Deer in the village**

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in May, we welcomed SCC Ranger Rob Taylor to the village hall and he delivered a fascinating talk about the deer on Cannock Chase.

We learnt that a passion of Rob's (which he chooses to spend some of his free time on, rather than during his busy working day) is looking into initiatives to keep the deer on Cannock Chase and away from busy roads. You may have seen the posts around Camp Road and Shugborough which use various methods such as light, sound and smell to deter the deer away from the road and back to safety. As a Parish Council we have expressed an interest in being considered for pilots of any initiatives that can be used in residential areas to try and avoid deer collisions in the village.

Furthermore, we have been working with Rob and hopefully new signs will be erected throughout the village warning vehicles of the deer crossing.



In particular we are excited about a special sign that can be used in rutting season which we hope will create an impact!

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The Parish Council have also had great success in setting up a Community Speed Watch Team, with Councillor Georgina Thomson working very hard to get the initiative off the ground and arranging regular speed watches throughout the village.

On behalf of Councillor Mrs Thomson and the Parish Council we wish to say 'thank you' to all the CSW village volunteers, who have dedicated their time to helping make Brocton's roads safer.

If you are interested in becoming part of the community speed watch team then please contact [georginabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:georginabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com).

## All Saints Church



**Reminder - Please don't forget, 1 November 2023 is All Saints Day.** There will be a commemorative service of celebration in the Church, please help support your local Church. Everyone is welcome.

## Will you support Brocton in Bloom - 2024?

Cllr Andrea Pugh wants to say 'Thank You' to all of those who have shown an interest in our Brocton in Bloom initiative. It's great that so many of you have come forward and we are sure, that between us, we will be able to come up with some great ideas to bring some floral displays to the village – which hopefully, the deer won't find too interesting!!

A meeting took place over the summer and an update from that meeting will be included in the next edition of the Paper Chase. It is never too late, to express an interest in joining in and newcomers are always welcome to join the group at any time. Please contact Andrea if you would like further information or want to join, [andrea@broctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:andrea@broctonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## Brocton Play Park, Sawpit Lane.

Brocton Play Park is such an asset to the Parish and we are very lucky to have it! The park is where many children in the village enjoy their first "swing" and then they continue to use and enjoy as they grow! It is also acts as the heart of lots of community events and has recently been the centre of celebrations for the Jubilee and Coronation. This is why the Parish Council are so keen to take good care of it and keep it looking lovely!

The Parish Councillors are very grateful to volunteers who help to "spruce up" the park and another working party to carry out some more painting will be announced shortly so please come along to help if you can. Volunteers also help to keep the park safe by carrying out monthly risk assessments and any items of concern are always quickly rectified by the Parish Council.

Sadly, as many residents may already know, there have been some recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in the park. This was very upsetting and meant that the park had to be closed for a period of time, whilst the Parish Councillors had to clear up the mess that had been made, as well as making the park safe, due to all of the broken glass that had been left over the basketball court. The damage that was done was totally unnecessary and deliberate and very shocking to the Parish Council, as nothing like this has happened before – this does mean that we are clearly very fortunate in the village, however, it does not mean the actions are acceptable. A number of trees, planted in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, were also damaged and many may not survive – the funding for these trees was obtained via a grant, for which much time was spent completing the grant application process, along with the time and effort involved in the planting of the trees. Councillors freely give up their own time for the benefit of the community and find it very distressing when needless vandalism happens. There was also an incident at the Post Office, which was connected with the vandalism in the park and we are pleased that an apology has been received by the Post Office.

Both incidents were reported to the Police, who investigated and were dealt with at a community level and, as far as the Parish Council is concerned, are now resolved. We do, however, want to call upon residents, to be vigilant and report any damage they may find/witness in the park to our Clerk or any of the Parish Councillors, so that any future incidents can be dealt with quickly and appropriately.

### **Future Park improvements**

In order to keep the park accessible, Parish Councillors are currently in the process of creating a 10-year plan with ideas on how the park can be updated. This includes changing existing equipment and adding additional playground equipment; looking at grants for additional wildlife sanctuaries and information boards; and working with the Cannock Chase Rangers to ensure the deer only access the park safely, if at all.

The intention is to split the park into “areas” and work on one area at a time over the next 10 years to ensure that all equipment is considered, and we get the most out of the space at the park. Our plan is to start with the toddler equipment and then progress further, and we hope to secure grant funding for the proposals.

**As part of these plans, Brocton Parish Council would like to hear from you and your children about how the park could be improved - what additional equipment would you like to see (we have so far considered a hill slide, roundabout and more accessible toddler play equipment) and what you think works / doesn't work at the park (for**



**example, we are hoping to install improved surfaces, as and when equipment is replaced which will hopefully last longer than the current tiles).**

Please send any ideas or thoughts you have to [emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:emmabroctonparishcouncil@gmail.com).

We would be very grateful for any comments or ideas in relation to the park! After all, we want to ensure that the play park meets the needs and wants of those who use it!

## **Parish Community Events**

**Litter Picks** – the final date for the Parish Litter Pick for 2023 is:

Sunday, 8 October

Tea and coffee will be available for all volunteers, courtesy of the Chetwynd Arms.

**BROCTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS  
FOR A**

**PARISH LITTER PICK,  
ON SUNDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2023**

**ANY VOLUNTEERS WISHING TO JOIN WITH  
COUNCILLORS AND HELPERS  
PLEASE MEET AT THE  
CHETWYND ARMS CAR PARK  
(BY THE SPEED CAMERA)  
FOR A 9:30 AM START**

**PICKERS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED**

## Halloween – pumpkin trail



This event has been enjoyed by many residents over the last 2 years and is proving to be a popular event. It certainly has the effect of lighting up the village, so if you have not joined in before, why not make this year the year you give it a go!

We want to encourage as many residents as possible to join in, so if you are interested, please email your name to register your interest to our Clerk [clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brocton.staffslc.gov.uk) by no later than **Friday, 20 October 2023**.

**Event will take place on Sunday, 29 October 2023.**

The event will be open to all residents of Brocton and the Parish Council will be providing pumpkins for carving for all residents who register with our Clerk, so why not join in the fun and help brighten up the village as the nights get darker.

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

Saturday, 2 December

Everyone is invited to join in and we are delighted to say that the Mayor and Mayoress will be attending in their official capacity.

## Brocton Village Hall

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

- **9 September – Last Night of the Proms.** Tickets are available from Brocton Post Office from the end of August.
- **16 September – Rummage Sale, 1.00pm – 3.00pm.** Collecting/sorting will take place the day before (15.9.23) and help in the form of donating, sorting or selling would be gratefully received. Please contact [info@broctonvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@broctonvillagehall.org.uk) or telephone on 07925 621023
- **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 on the Village Hall website.

### **Comment from Brocton Village Hall Management Committee:**

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, we hope that everyone has had a relaxing summer.

Fundraising continues to cover the running costs of the for the Village Hall. We'd be very pleased if you would support us by attending our events, as shown above.

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 page – <https://broctonvillagehall.org.uk/>

## Information from Staffordshire County Council:

# Weed spraying programme underway

Our weed spraying programme is under way across the county, where our sub-contractors are tackling weeds in order to maintain visibility, prevent structural damage to the road structure and improve safety for road users.



Weed spraying is an important routine maintenance activity for Staffordshire Highways, especially in the summer when the warm (and sometimes damp) weather can cause them to grow and spread rapidly. Local councils often enhance the level of service by undertaking their own weed spraying operations to help maintain and improve the appearance of the local area.

The 2023 weed spraying programme can be viewed by visiting SCC's website: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)

Some FAQ's

### When do you weed spray?

Routine activities to control the growth of weeds within the highway take place every growing season, with one single treatment between April and August. We have recently increased the frequency of our weed spraying, meaning we now treat weeds three times a year in April/May, July/August and October/November.

Weed spraying is weather dependant which means that there can be a slight delay to the programme.

### Where do you weed spray?

In rural areas, for roads with a speed limit of 40 mph and above, existing weeds along the kerb and channel will be treated. In urban areas for roads with a speed limit of 30 mph and below,

we will spray the kerb, channel and the back of the footway (pavement) where a hard edge such as a fence or wall exists, if weeds are present.

### What chemicals do you use?

Due to regulations associated with the toxicity of weed spraying chemicals, the solution used by our contractors is very mild and is only effective on growing plants. New weeds that grow following the treatment will be unaffected by the chemical.

## Highways goes electric



Nine new all-electric and 100% green Renault Zoes will be hitting the road in Staffordshire as part of the county council's highways fleet.

The new vehicles, which are replacing 9 of our diesel vans, will be used by highways officers to travel

around the county making their inspections.

We are always looking at ways we can reduce our carbon output in highways. Because these cars do not use fossil fuels, it is estimated that the county council will save around 75 per cent in fuel costs. The cars are also 40 per cent cleaner than a vehicle that uses petrol or diesel.

Added to this, each car will save around two tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year—the equivalent weight of two great white sharks or two of Staffordshire's carbon bubbles—directly contributing to the county council's carbon zero target.



## **Information from Stafford Borough Council:**

### **Town Centre Tsar appointed to lead on Stafford's No.1 issue**

The regeneration of the town centre in Stafford is so important that a senior councillor has been added to the local authority's top team to head up the work.

That was the message from SBC's Leader – Aidan Godfrey, who announced the role at a meeting on 25.7.2023. Cllr Godfrey, who became leader following the elections in May, said that the biggest issue for residents in Stafford had been the state of the town centre – so Cllr Rob Kenney, Deputy leader, has a mandate to head up the ongoing regeneration of the area.

The town's Market Square is currently undergoing a £1m makeover to attract more events specialist markets and footfall to the centre. Work will also be going ahead on improvements to the approach and entrance to Stafford Railway station, which will include refurbishment of the concourse; new street furniture; increased disabled parking close to the station; road surfacing and a new public short-stay car park.

The 'Market Square' and 'Station Approach' projects are the first part of an overall transformation of the area with SBC securing more than £14 million from the Government's Future High Street (FHSF). This is aimed at increasing the number of people living in the town – to support the retail and hospitality sectors, creating new pedestrian routes around the centre with great links to public transport and enhanced spaces encouraging people to socialise – with the revamped 'Square' the focal point for events and activities.

## **General Information**

**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  
0780 3276431  
[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>