

**Newborough Parish Council**  
ANNUAL REPORT - April 2017 to March 2018

THE ANNUAL NEWBOROUGH PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE JUBILEE ROOM, ALL  
SAINTS' CHURCH ON MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> May AT 7.00pm  
ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICER

Councillors:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Bethan Waite (Chairman)     | 01283 575049                               |
| Barrie Gill (Vice Chairman) | 01283 575951                               |
| Di Bell                     | 01283 575715                               |
| June Bullingham             | 01283 575053                               |
| Alison Fletcher             | 01283 575687                               |
| Linda Instone               | 01283 575141                               |
| John Sherwood               | 01283 575123                               |
| Parish Clerk:               | Sally Flockett 01283 575772 / 07808 098267 |

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**The Parish Council:** At the end of February, we were very sorry to have to say goodbye to our long-serving Parish Clerk, June Bullingham, who had to stand down due to family commitments. However, a very worthy successor was found in Sally Flockett, who took on the position at the beginning of March. In a very happy turn of events, June decided to apply for the casual vacancy which we have had for many months, and she was instated as our seventh parish councillor at the meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>, bringing us up to a full complement.

Sally lives in the village with her husband Graham and young daughter who attends Needwood School. She should be your first point of contact on Parish Council matters. Her contact details are Middlebeck House, Duffield Lane, Newborough, DE13 8SH, tel: 01283 575772 & 07808 098267 and [newboroughparishcouncil7@outlook.com](mailto:newboroughparishcouncil7@outlook.com).

With the exception of August and bank holidays, our regular Parish Council meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the first Monday of the month in the Jubilee Room, All Saints' Church and everyone is very welcome to attend. Parish Council documents, agendas and approved minutes are available on the village website: [www.newboroughvillage.co.uk](http://www.newboroughvillage.co.uk).

**Precept:** It has regrettably been necessary to increase our precept, which forms a small part of your Council Tax, for 2018-19, mainly due to a reduction in the income we receive from Staffordshire County Council. This increase equates to approximately £1 per household per month.

Our auditor has yet again given an unqualified report and continues to be very happy with the quality of our financial records and associated record keeping.

**Website:** Do, please, visit our village website at [www.newboroughvillage.co.uk](http://www.newboroughvillage.co.uk), and let the editor, Cllr Alison Fletcher, know of any news or information you'd like to see mentioned. Alison also keeps our 'Newborough Parish' Facebook page up to date. She can be contacted at [alisonmfletcher@hotmail.com](mailto:alisonmfletcher@hotmail.com) or on 575687. Newborough News is an email newsletter sent out regularly – in a personal capacity – by Bethan Waite to keep people informed about local news and events. If you'd like to be included on the circulation, please contact Bethan at [bkeirl@aol.com](mailto:bkeirl@aol.com) or on 01283 575049.

**Data Protection:** New data protection legislation comes into force towards the end of May 2018 and this applies to the Parish Council as well as to most other organisations. Newborough Parish Council would like you to know that it is using expert advice to ensure that it is fully compliant, and that it takes the security of your personal data very seriously. No personal data held by the Parish Council is shared with any other organisation.

**Highways:** Potholes continue to be a major problem in and around Newborough in terms of quantity and severity . Discussions have taken place between NPC, Staffordshire County Council Highways and our SCC Councillor regarding the priority policy and the quality and therefore longevity of repairs. Reports suggest that relationships similar to that which SCC have with Amey are proving to be very difficult and, in some cases, are being discontinued. As representatives of the tax payer Newborough PC is enquiring as to the value and rationale of the SCC Highways/Amey relationship.

Traffic Calming also continues to be a current topic. The build-out on the eastern side of the village has caused difficulty in finding a design that “fits” on the road network and achieves the objective. Based on the number of times the build-out has been damaged it suggests the objective has not been achieved but is probably the best we can expect. Last year we discussed the possibility of modifications to the bridge by the Red Lion in conjunction with the eastern build-out but on detailed examination it was viewed that any such modifications would increase the risk to pedestrians. We still look towards a re-alignment of the B5234/Duffield Lane junction but cost restraints will inevitably delay this proposed scheme. As support to the Speed Watch we are investigating the perceived value of the installation of speed activated electronic devices.

Parking in the village centre, on occasions, remains a cause for concern. The PC is mindful that people visiting the school, the church, coffee shop and pub need to park somewhere but sensible consideration would be welcomed and would reduce the risk of accidents. The PC request that people be more considerate of others and the law when choosing a place to park.

Staffordshire County Council – A meeting was held recently with County Councillor Julia Jessel and Richard Rayson and Sam Griffiths from SCC Highways, hosted by Vice Chairman of NPC Cllr Barrie Gill supported by Cllr June Bullingham and our Clerk Sally Flockett. A broad range of topics were discussed including parking, pot holes, the SCC/Amey contract, traffic calming and planning applications/highways interaction. These discussions produced some clarity in some cases and some positive action in others particularly parking, pot holes and traffic calming. We hope to be able to report in more detail in the near future.

**Village Maintenance:** Our Grass/Lengthsman /Contract covers a broad range of topics and activities. The inclement weather in early spring curtailed the start of annual grass management and general upkeep. Substantial essential maintenance has been undertaken in the play park to power wash and re-treat all raw timber and to find ways to prevent the bridge deck becoming dangerously slippery, and the main Well has been cleaned up and repainted.

**Footpaths:** A consultation regarding footpaths was carried out recently by Staffordshire County Council which proposed categorising all footpaths as either A: where the majority of the council’s resources will be focused; B: where some of the council’s resources will be used; or C: will be supported by the council when resources allow. This was done to help manage their resources more effectively. As a result, The Parish Council undertook a survey of our local footpaths, aided by some splendid volunteers. A report was submitted to the footpaths department of the County Council detailing all the problems that had been identified. To our knowledge this report has not been acted on.

A further report was submitted to the consultation. We argued that the more central footpaths should be given a higher status than the grade C proposed. This was backed up by The Ramblers Association who often visit Newborough. Our arguments were mostly ignored and most of our footpaths have been downgraded to category C. The outcome of the consultation can be found here:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eLand/RightsofWay/Rights-of-Way-consultation/Consultation-rights-of-way-paths-bridlewys.aspx>. It states that 77 paths have been upgraded but does not indicate how many have been downgraded. Newborough has over 30 footpaths and all but one is now in category C.

A map of the footpaths can be found here:

<https://staffscc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/SimpleViewer/index.html?appid=ed3c945da5d84533ae7f690c37f6296b>

You can report obstructions on pathways here:

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

Guides to four walks in and around the village are available on the village website at [www.newboroughvillage.co.uk](http://www.newboroughvillage.co.uk)

**Well Dressing:** The aim of Newborough Well Dressing is to celebrate the village, give villagers a chance to have a fun day and at the same time raise money to support local organizations and charities.

At the time of writing, we are a few days before the 2018 event, which is being held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May. We are hoping for a continuing improvement in the weather but are prepared for the worst! The format will be much the same as in previous years, commencing with the Church Service at 10.30 including the crowning of the May Queen and the May Princesses, followed by the Procession and Blessing of the Wells, which will again be led by the Beggar's Oak Clog Dancers. There will then be a variety of performances in the Square, the highlight of which will of course be the Maypole Dance performed by the children of Needwood CE (VA) Primary School. At the same time there will be craft stalls in the school and various activities on the school playing field, whilst in the Events Field on Yoxall Road there will be a variety of attractions including the Children's Marquee. There will be different food stations in the Square and the Red Lion and Old Bakers Cottage will be open. In All Saints Church' there will be refreshments, music and singing and various stalls.

The theme for this year is Heroes and Heroines and we are looking forward to seeing what our inspired designers have dreamt up this year for the decorating of the wells; as usual we are very grateful for all the hard work put in by the design team and their helpers. The field competition is to decorate a hat representing a hero and the school competition is Superhero crests/logos. We anticipate plenty of interesting creations!

We would like to thank all our sponsors and donors of raffle prizes for their continuing support, especially Bob and Jen Rushton for letting us use their field again, but also all those who help with and support the event. Last year yielded a final surplus of £2,800; £900 was donated to each of All Saints' Church and Needwood School PTA and smaller amounts to two local individuals we wished to support. Our nominated charities this year are the School PTA, the All Saints' Church Bells Appeal, Midlands Air Ambulance and Freedom Wizard.

### **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

I am just about to begin my fourth year as Yoxall Ward Borough Councillor. It has once again been a full year of Council meetings and I have tried to attend as many of the Parish Council meetings as my schedule would allow. I was again pleased to help Newborough Parish Council with funding from the Councillors' Community Fund, this year for new cabling for Christmas lights. Planning issues have once again dominated the emails received from Newborough residents. I hope I have been able to help most of those who have contacted me. I am committed to making sure that the policies you have set out in your Neighbourhood Plan are adhered to.

The Borough Council has begun to implement a Town Centre Regeneration Plan for Burton in conjunction with the County Council and the Chamber of Commerce. While this plan may take several years to complete in its entirety, we should see the first signs of improvement shortly with the installation of new street furniture, lighting and benches etc. A pilot scheme has also been introduced to improve the flow of traffic into Coopers Square car park. It was decided to continue to provide the 'free after three' service in our town centre car parks, which has improved trading in late afternoons and helped bring more people in to Burton in the evening. New parking machines have been installed at Coopers Square, Burton Place and the Maltings, Uttoxeter which allow both cash and card payments. Plans for the redeployment of the Bargates site in Burton town centre will shortly come before the Planning Committee.

ESBC has once again frozen Council Tax, an achievement that we are very proud of and which we hope is well received as it was a manifesto pledge at the last local Council elections! Our Community and Civil Enforcement team have undertaken at least 11 new initiatives in the borough to try to combat dog fouling, one of which took place in Newborough earlier this year. The Council has continued to improve its waste collection, household recycling and street cleaning services, increasing the fleet and crews to optimise waste collection rounds. I hope in the final year of my term as your Borough Councillor to continue to support the Parish Council and local residents to the best of my ability.

***Cllr Alan Johnson, East Staffordshire Borough Councillor, Yoxall Ward, 01543 472921***

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

2017-8 has been a busy first year as your Staffordshire County Councillor. I have assisted individual residents with issues ranging from social care to potholes, school places to planning. I have campaigned to reduce the number of

HGVs using the A515 and Road Traffic Orders on some of the surrounding roads to protect Kings Bromley, Yoxall and Barton. Hopefully the scheme can start this financial year.

The key elements of Staffordshire County Council's strategy for 2018 are:

- To create the right conditions for economic growth, with more and better paid jobs.
- To support the provision of more infrastructure, roads, rail transport, broadband, utilities etc. to ensure sustainable new housing development.
- To improve education and skills provision.
- A joined-up approach to health, care and wellness to encourage people to take responsibility for their own health and plan for their future, so that support can be provided for those who really need it.
- Ensure children and families have access to a network of support to manage their own problems and stay safe and well.

Again this year, an extra £5M funding towards road repairs has been allocated and I would urge residents to report potholes, blocked gullies etc. on the SCC website:

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

I am liaising closely with Newborough Parish Council and SCC Highways Officers to respond to residents' concerns about the condition of highways and road safety in the village and will report on progress in my next half-yearly newsletter. I will continue to working hard on your behalf.

***Cllr Julia Jessel, Staffordshire County Councillor, Needwood Division, 01543 473671***

## VILLAGE REPORTS

**Needwood Church of England VA Primary School:** It is with a great deal of pleasure that I provide Needwood Church of England (VA) Primary School's annual report to the Parish Council. How do we condense a whole year's worth of work into a short outline? Our school and indeed our Federation are such vibrant communities with such a huge amount of exciting things happening each week! We urge community members to review our blogs on our website to see all that goes on! <https://www.theforestfederation.co.uk/news/?pid=16&nid=3> .

One huge celebration is our achievement of the outstanding grade we received in our school's church inspection. This inspects all areas of school life, achievement, personal social and emotional development and leadership and management as well as distinctive Christian character, Religious Education and collective worship. Additionally, both schools achieved a joint Health and Safety audit at Level 5 (outstanding),

Here is a whistle stop tour of some of the events our children have engaged with! A great deal of charity work has been completed ranging from Christian aid afternoon teas, sport relief and race for life miles run! A large number of sporting events and tournaments including boxercise, cross country, hockey, football, high fives and rounders to name a small few have been enjoyed. Musical and artistic activities such as dancing at the Garrick, Banghara dancing and singing in local churches have enhanced provision.



We've had special days and weeks such as British Values day exploring democracy, safety week and a multi-cultural days coinciding with a touring exhibition of the Turin shroud, Diwali and celebrating Chinese New Year.

A member of staff took part in an exchange to Shanghai and we were thrilled that the teachers visited our school. We learnt our motto in Mandarin which was such fun and so wonderful to share. This was all part of our Maths Mastery teaching development.

Visits have been undertaken to a wide variety of places such as Cadbury world, Pirelli stadium, the library meeting with Author Clare Balding, a residential to Shugborough and even a worship retreat with Bishop Geoff to Dovedale House.

We remain a popular and successful school with high standards and have now grown from 48 pupils in 2013 to 84 pupils next September! Additionally, we will be becoming an

academy and joining John Taylor Multi Academy Trust (JTMAT) as we enter the new academic year.

We look forward to the Well Dressing day, invite our community to our Royal Wedding in the church on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm and of course look forward to all of our summer events. We wish all of our community partners a sunny and happy summer period and indeed year until our next report!



***Charlene Gethin. Executive Head Teacher***

**All Saint's Church Newborough:** Thanks to the generosity of a number of people in the village who donate on a regular basis to the church, accounts over the past year showed only a small deficit on income and expenditure. During the past year we have been in the process of restoring the sound of bells to the church. This should be completed in time for May Day. Once again thank you for some very generous donations towards the cost. The school continues to use the church on a regular basis, and it's wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the children. A huge thank you to the staff for their great work. Sunday attendance continues to cause concern. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us. If you have any ideas or thoughts on this, please speak to a member of the Parochial Church Council.

**Brian Beck, Churchwarden 575743**

**Newborough "School House" Fund:** We are delighted to say we were again able to assist twenty young people with the cost of travel to school and university fees. We also gave a donation to Needwood School to assist pupils who the Head teacher considered would benefit from extra tuition.

**Brian Beck Chairman**

**Meynell Cricket Club:** Greetings from the Newborough and Hoar Cross Cricket Club, otherwise known as The Meynell Cricket Club, or The Mighty MCC! The MCC is your village club, and we are always looking for players of any age and ability. So, if you fancy a game, please get in touch, or just turn up at the ground. Bats, pads, balls, gloves etc can all be supplied, all you need is a white shirt, white'ish trousers (tracksuit bottoms are fine) and white cricket or golf or training shoes. We'll kit you out with the rest. If you don't fancy playing but would like to be a part of the club, we welcome anyone as a spectator, (we have a Pimms and beer tent) umpire or scorer. Training will be given.

Summer is almost here and once again your local team is dusting off the pads and preparing the practice nets in preparation for the new 2018 season. Not that our practising would make much difference! We do try to win, and we go out to the crease with every intention of winning, but we are a real English cricket team. For us the fun is as much about getting together and having a few drinks with friends as in competing. Win, lose or draw, it's always back to the Red Lion to celebrate or commiserate, over a beer or two, and I'd like to send a personal thank you to Michael Webb, Emma, Adam, Kay and all the staff at the Red Lion for their ongoing support. Our first home game will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May against Yoxall CC, starting at 6:30pm. Fixtures booklets are available behind the bar at the Red Lion Newborough. Please come along and support us.

You would also be welcome at our annual Chairman's XI event, to be held this year on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August, and at the MCC Black Tie/Posh Frocks Masquerade Ball at Hoar Cross Hall on the evening of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. More information and tickets are available from Di at [di.dolling@btinternet.com](mailto:di.dolling@btinternet.com), [01283 575611](tel:01283575611) or from the cricket ground during any game

**Kevin Dolling, Chairman, 575611**

**Newborough (R)Amblers (Started 1988):** Each year I wonder if we shall make it as a walking group for yet another twelve months, but somehow our little band of faithfuls (all six of us) keep going!

April 2017 saw us a little further from home with a visit to Belper. Here we visited the Riverside Gardens and walked alongside the Derwent. Next a village walk at Stramshall and in June we were at Hednesford Hills, trying to find a route only illustrated with photographs but few instructions (we ended up doing what we are best at, getting lost!) Next we were off to Bretby, circling round the old Hall. We admired the very colourful floral displays in Stapenhill Gardens in August, and then we went to Rolleston, following the Jinny Trail. In October we travelled back in time to Letocetum (Wall) and the next month we were at the National Memorial Arboretum. The trees planted here at the start are now getting quite established and more and more memorials are being erected. We enjoyed our Christmas lunch at the Roebuck, Draycott in the Clay.

We started the New Year with a walk along the canal at Fradley. February and March there were no walks, but we did try to make up for that by joining a coach trip to Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire. Apart from the Tudor Manor House there were six different walks advertised, but with all the recent snow and rain all the routes were very muddy and due to the earlier departure of the coach we had limited time, so we didn't get very far exploring the park land, with lovely old mature trees and undulating fields and woodlands.

**Liz Ford 575244 (for Barbara, Marilyn, Jean, Jill and Shirley)**

**The Old Baker's Cottage B&B, Coffee Shop & Tea Garden:** We are pleased to report that both aspects of the business continue to thrive and run profitably with our opening hours remaining the same all year round for the 5th year. The B&B has seen regular guests returning from St George's Park checking in throughout the year and during 2017 we saw an increase in bookings particularly from Weddings at Hoar Cross Hall. The purchase of fibre broadband and mobile phone signal booster has also pleased our guests and customers alike, meaning they are able to call and internet browse without interruptions, increasing Wi-Fi uptake in the shop and allowing guests to work and communicate efficiently and freely with family whilst away from home. We have benefitted from another great year of Awards including certificates from LateRooms and Tripadvisor. We continue to receive 5\* ratings on Google & Trivago, with Expedia guests rating us Superb, Toprooms verified reviews giving us 6/6 and 100% of guests would recommend staying with us.

The Coffee Shop continues to be supported well by local groups including the PTA, PC, Ramblers, Cyclists and Well Dressing teams. We also had a star appearance from Alexandra Burke this year just before she was on Strictly burning off her homemade Cream Tea. The well established Knit and Natter Monday group continues to run at full capacity, so much so we have just introduced a Tuesday morning Craft Group which has a few spaces available should anyone else wish to just come along with any craft they are working on. We are also open to suggestions for other groups which may be interested in forming or using the Coffee Shop as a meeting base.

***Bev Hudson 575303 and [www.theoldbakerscottage.co.uk](http://www.theoldbakerscottage.co.uk).***

**Newborough Speedwatch:** The 2017 Speedwatch sessions were severely curtailed by the presence of the very long drawn out roadworks through the centre of the village. However, the team did manage to fit in a few sessions here and there. We held some of these sessions on Hollybush Road – each of these sessions registering in excess of 50 vehicles and yet again, some vehicles speeding!

Excessive speeding was noted by many villagers during the period of the roadworks as drivers attempted to 'beat the traffic lights'! In fact, there were several accidents actually in the roadworks causing constant danger to the workmen due to this insane practice.

The Speedwatch Team has been active on several occasions, weather permitting, so far this year. We always register in excess of 100 vehicles passing through Newborough in any given hour during the day – if our sessions are held during morning or evening 'rush hour', then the number of vehicles is often in excess of 200.

People are still speeding – even when they see us standing by the side of the road in Hi-Viz vests, huge signs advertising the fact that we are there AND pointing a speed gun – Amazing!

Newborough Parish Council is in the process of ordering permanent 'This is a Speedwatch Area' signs, which we sincerely hope will alert motorists to lower their speed when driving through the Village. The Parish Council is also looking into the practicalities and costs of installing flashing speed warning signs which seem to work so well in other villages.

We urgently need more volunteers – there is no fixed commitment, and an hour a month would be just fine. We always operate in teams of 2 or 3 so volunteers need not worry about their personal safety. Please contact me if you are interested.

***Cllr Di Bell, Newborough Speed Watch Coordinator, 575715***

*This report, compiled by Newborough Parish Council using input from different sources, aims to bring together in one place key details about the activities both in the parish and those of the Parish. Any views expressed are those of the original authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the Parish Council.*