

LOGGERHEADS 'Safer Roads Action Group'

A public meeting of the 'Safer Roads Action Group' held on 24th April determined a seven-point action plan that included demands for action in respect of the A51/A53 interchanges at Blackbrook, improvements to sight-lines at the Mucklestone Wood Lane junction with the A53, road safety measures for the benefit of pedestrians on Pinewood Road, the need for a single roundabout or traffic lights in the centre of Loggerheads, and a review of speed limits on the B5026 at both Hookgate and Mucklestone.

The Parish Council understands that the speed awareness campaign undertaken during March 2012 as part of the Newcastle Rural Road Safety Initiative included awareness/enforcement measures carried out on both Eccleshall Road and Market Drayton Road in Loggerheads, on London Road in Knighton and at two other locations in neighbouring parishes. It has been reported that some 423 motorists were caught driving in excess of speed limits; 123 were sent advisory notices whilst 58 have been prosecuted or offered education diversion schemes.

Parish Councillors by Ward

Loggerheads Ward

Cllr Bob Dickson

Cllr Ian Douglas

Cllr Jane Egerton

Cllr Jane Hughes

Cllr Ed Martin

Cllr Tony McCullagh

Cllr Paul Northcott

Cllr Della Rowley

Mucklestone Ward

Cllr Graham Sedgley

Cllr Jim Vallings

Cllr Jamie Friend

Ashley Ward

Cllr Sue Fox

Cllr Bunty Hodgkins

Cllr John Lovatt

Cllr Chris Taylor

Tyrley Ward

Cllr Bert Bennion

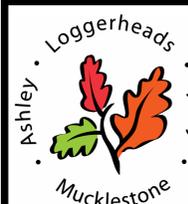
Cllr Roy Claydon

*All Councillors can be contacted
on 01630 673426 or by email*

Parish Council Meetings

**The next two full meetings of the Council are being held on
Thursday, 24th May and Thursday, 28th June**

****Please Check Parish Notice Boards for venue****



YOUR Parish Council The newsletter of Loggerheads Parish Council

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Inside this edition of YOUR Parish Newsletter

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Knighton Village Hall ** Royal British Legion

Safer Roads for Loggerheads

Loggerheads Community Fire Station

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service is progressing with plans for the new community fire station to be based at Loggerheads, which received outline planning permission in February this year.

The Fire Service recently exchanged contracts with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council for the acquisition of the land concerned, and is now waiting for Government to approve the preferred bidder, at which point designs can be finalised and applications for detailed planning permission submitted.

The Service is proposing to hold two drop in information sessions at Newcastle Community Fire Station, Knutton Lane on Monday 16th July 2012 at 3pm to 4pm and 6pm to 7pm to show interested parties the proposals and talk over the plans. The Parish Council has asked that these sessions be transferred to a more convenient and suitable venue within the parish of Loggerheads to make it easier for those most interested in the proposals to attend. Please keep an eye on the Parish Council noticeboards and the website for further information as the time nears. We have been informed that letters are to be sent to neighbouring residents nearer the time inviting them to the sessions.

Parish Council grants in support of Jubilee events and related initiatives

The Parish Council has agreed to make financial support available to a number of community organisations to help meet the costs of events and activities associated with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics. The awards made are as follows:

(i) The "MALT" Community Group is to receive £1,500 to help meet the costs associated with both a Charity Music Festival on Monday 4th June, at Loggerheads Pub car park, and a 'Mini-Olympics' sports day at Burntwood Sports pitch on Saturday 7th July. Additionally, the group has benefitted from a further £500 made available by the Borough Council from the latter's Festival Fund. It has also been agreed that the Parish Council itself will take responsibility for hiring the marquee in which the Festival will be staged on 4th June.

(ii) Ashley, Loggerheads and Mucklestone Community Choir has been awarded £200 in respect of a specially Commissioned piece for a Community Choir Concert on Sunday 3rd June.

(iii) Ashley Parish Church is to receive a sum of £200 in respect of a 'Big Lunch' on Church Green on 3rd June.

Further, exceptional awards of section 137 grants have also been made to enable our two important local 'floral' organisations enhance the appearance of their respective villages during the course of the summer with special 'Jubilee' themed displays; £500 to Loggerheads Pickers and Planters, and £139 to Bloomin' Ashley.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Parish Council has been addressed by representatives of the Royal British Legion who have explained the need to attract new members to sustain the future viability of the local branch.

The Council acknowledges the valuable role that the Royal British Legion plays in village affairs and its contribution to well-being in the community generally, in addition to those who have served in HM armed forces.

KNIGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Major refurbishment works are underway at Knighton Village Hall. Funding is now in place for the replacement of the Committee Room floor, including a £1,000 donation agreed by the Parish Council in November 2011. Additional contributions have been provided by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's Community Chest and Staffordshire County Council.

A number of fund raising events are being arranged during the remainder of 2012, including a Jazz Evening on 8th July and a performance by a Concert Trio on 12th October.

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday, 17th April 2012

One of the Parish Council's major 'watching briefs' is, of course, in the matter of planning and development. A pre-eminent concern during the latter part of 2011 was the proposal for a new Community Fire Station on land owned by the Borough Council on the north side of the Market Drayton Road. Clearly the outline plans of the Staffordshire Fire Authority, which have now been formally approved by the Borough Council, were never going to be universally welcomed and we felt it appropriate to insist on measures being taken to ameliorate the potential direct impact of this development on those living in the immediate vicinity.

Related to this we have not lost sight of the ongoing concern about the future of the centre of Loggerheads and, in particular, the garage site, and our responsibility for helping to ensure that the hub of the village is eventually transformed into a more appealing and – crucially – safe environment encompassing appropriate traffic calming measures on the busy A53, notably at its intersection with the B5026 leading north to Mucklestone and south to Eccleshall.

The Parish Council is also closely involved in the local planning authority's strategic housing review that is seeking to identify potential new housing sites both within and beyond the existing limits of the village envelopes of Loggerheads and Ashley. In the wake both of the passing into law of the Localism Act 2011 and the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012, we are keen to assess how the Parish Council might contribute more directly to the future development of the centre of Loggerheads, perhaps through drawing up a new Neighbourhood Plan, which could become a part of and inform the Borough Council's own local plan.

During 2011 we also saw completion of the installation of play equipment at Tadgedale Brook, together with all related signage, both at this site and at the other three playgrounds in the Parish for which the Parish Council is responsible; we have also seen the appointment of a play area warden, who undertakes comprehensive weekly inspections to ensure the safety and integrity of all the play equipment.

We are grateful to Councillors Fox and Martin for their efforts in keeping youngsters amused and providing some relief for hard-pressed parents through the 'Playday' Activity last August.

For the benefit of rather older but no less active residents, we are on verge of securing a new lease for the football ground on the Burntwood, extending the current lease from 17 to 30 years, and thereby helping to secure the future viability of the Loggerheads Football Club.

For a second successive winter we made a major contribution to the well-being of the Parish through gritting. Whilst the weather not as severe as during the winter of 2010/11, it was still necessary to commission ten 'grit runs' covering a good number of roads in the more densely populated residential areas, to complement the activities of Staffordshire County Council on the major highways. This included gritting on seven consecutive nights during the most severe cold snap from 4th to 10th February. We also added two further grit bins, to take the total for which the Parish Council is responsible up to twelve.

We have much to look forward to in the remainder of 2012, with a particularly busy summer in prospect during which we'll celebrate both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics. The Parish Council has already made a commitment towards supporting local community organisations to help them make the most of these opportunities to bring residents together both to enjoy themselves and also, it is hoped, at the same time raise funds for worthy causes.

Bunty Hodgkins, Chair, Loggerheads Parish Council