

Proposed erection of new fencing at Ashley House

The Parish Council received a number of representations from residents objecting to a recent planning application submitted by the Huntercombe Group for new, more secure, fencing at Ashley House. It was recognised that whilst no formal representation could be made to the Borough Council on planning issues *per se*, there were major concerns arising from the application. The Parish Council has, accordingly, made a strongly worded comment to the Planning Department to the effect that the applicant did not, despite previous assurances, appear to acknowledge the impact of such proposals on Ashley residents. Local consultation procedures that villagers have a right to expect to be observed appear not to have been followed on this occasion. The Parish Council has also demanded that the Borough should apply a condition that, should the proposal be permitted, the applicant should give an undertaking that no subsequent application for a material change of use of the premises of a nature unlikely to be welcomed by residents will be sought. The Parish Council remains keen to engage with the management of Ashley House, and a programme of liaison meetings has recently resumed. It is hoped that constructive dialogue and open communication may allay the concerns of residents about actual and prospective developments at Ashley House.

Parish Councillors by Ward

Loggerheads Ward

(one vacancy)

Cllr Neil Bown

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

(one vacancy)

Cllr Bert Bennion

Cllr Roy Claydon

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

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings of the Council are being held on

Thursday, 20th December at Ashley Methodist Church

Thursday, 25th January 2013 at Ashley Methodist Church

Thursday, 28th February at Oddfellows Hall, Church Road, Ashley

all meetings commence at 7pm



YOUR Parish Council The newsletter of Loggerheads Parish Council

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Inside this edition of YOUR Parish Newsletter

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GRITTING

As in previous years, the Parish Council will try to help ensure that local residents face the minimum inconvenience during the coming winter by bolstering the efforts of the County Council Highways Department in the provision of gritting services. The gritting routes identified below will be serviced, at times of severe weather, to complement the work done on major routes by the County Council.

Mucklestone: From Junction of B5415 to junction of B5026 at Mucklestone Church

Loggerheads: Hunters Point, St Margaret’s Road, Badger Brow Road, Chestnut Road.

Ashley: Pinewood Road, Charnes Road, Sovereign Lane to Junction with Church Road. Doctor’s Bank, School Lane to Junction with Church Road. Lower Road from The Dale to junction with B5026 Eccleshall Road.

A number of Parish Council-owned grit bins will again be placed and serviced at the following locations in the Parish, adding to those provided by the County:-

St Mary’s Road by Hunters Point
Sharpland
Chartwood / Badger Brow Road
Meadowside by Chestnut Road
Beech Grove by Chestnut Road
Reynards Rise by Fox Hollow

Hugo Way
Meynell Fields close to No 10
St John’s Way
Smithy Lane Knighton
Tower Road by Eccleshall Road
Brookfield



BloomIn' Ashley : Christmas Event 2012



Sunday 9th December – Santa comes to town

The BloomIn' Ashley group of volunteers have taken the ideas of local residents and created what they hope will be an annual event for the village.

On **Sunday 9th December at around 4pm**, the area around The Peel Arms in Ashley will fill with local families so they can welcome Santa Claus. He will be taking a break from his busy pre-Christmas schedule to call by and see us. Santa will officially switch on the lights on our new Christmas tree, outside on the Peel Arms garden, before going into a specially created grotto inside the pub. Here, groups of children can meet him, will have a story read, be able to make a special Christmas wish, and take away their first present of the festive season.

Mums and dads will need to book places in advance and there will be a small charge for entry to the grotto – all funds raised will go towards future BloomIn' Ashley projects. Tickets for the grotto event are available from the Peel Arms.

Consultation with local residents

The light switch on will result in extra traffic and pedestrians at about 4.00pm that day. There are likely to be many pedestrians on Church Road before and after the light switch on. We hope to have a choir singing carols in the background; and we are aiming to have the tree lights on throughout the Christmas period. The "BloomIn' Ashley" committee would like to **hear from any residents who may have concerns** over any of these plans so that we can minimise any disruption on the day. Please contact BloomInAshley@btinternet.com or 672040.

BloomIn' Ashley

NEW COMMUNITY FIRE STATION – Planning application

The Parish Council responded comprehensively to the recent 'reserved matters' planning application submitted by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Fire & Rescue Service which added detail to the approved outline plans for the new Community Fire Station on Market Drayton Road, for which permission was granted earlier in the year.

It has been confirmed by the Borough Council that a number of traffic calming measures must be implemented on the A53 in the proximity of the site, including lights, 'dragon's teeth' highway markings, and anti-skid surfacing. The Parish Council has sought confirmation both from the applicant and the LPA that the traffic calming lights on the highway will include audible warnings in addition to the flashing lights themselves, together with appropriate signage.

A major concern remains that the visibility splay providing sightlines to the east (i.e. in the direction of the centre of Loggerheads) may prove inadequate. It is considered vital that the visibility splays relate not to the nominal speed limit of 30mph but rather to the much higher 85 percentile speed of traffic established in the analysis submitted by the developer in the original outline application. It has also been pointed out that neither the current surface water drainage system nor the foul sewer system are working efficiently with instances of flooding throughout the village and foul sewage overflowing into adjacent watercourses at times of heavy flows. Details have been asked for of how the developers intend to ensure that no additional surface run off from the site adds to the pressure on the existing, inadequate infrastructure.

NIGHT TIME STREET LIGHTING CONSULTATION

The Council has duly undertaken an analysis of the responses received to the questionnaire distributed in the August edition of the newsletter. Ultimately some sixty completed forms were received from residents. A majority (17 against 11) of those who answered the question "*I would prefer to see no change at all to existing lighting arrangements*" affirmed their opposition to change. With respect to the detailed questions about options should a change be implemented, no definitive collective opinion emerged. There was little support for a 'selective dimming approach', i.e. dimming of lights on the main thoroughfares and the 'part-night' option in areas of relatively dense housing. Detailed examination of those responses nominally in favour of the 'part-night' switch off revealed that the majority who would approve this course of action actually live in parts of the parish with little, if any, street lighting; conversely there is far less support for this idea amongst those who actually live in the relatively well illuminated areas.

Residents will wish to note that the County Council has, in any event, following a complete review of its long term Street Lighting PFI contract, reconfirmed the original approval of operational changes to modernise the way its street lighting service is to be delivered on the highway network. These changes will include the objective to introduce dimmable street lights on a County wide basis with the intention of conserving energy.

MORE DROPPED KERBS : IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY

Following representations from the Parish Council, an investigation has been carried out, by the County Council Highways Department, into the inadequacy of kerb drops at various key locations in Loggerheads which impede access for wheelchair and mobility scooter users. Particular problems were evident at the Co-op car park on Eccleshall Road It is anticipated that related remedial works will be undertaken as a matter of priority.

Please visit www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.com to read the minutes of meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees, and see the background to, and greater detail of, the issues being dealt with on your behalf.