

## SECTION 137 PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

The Council has recently made the following awards to voluntary organisations in the Parish.

- Ashley & Loggerheads Junior Youth Club - £150 towards the "Fun 4 All" project
- Friends of St Mary's Mucklestone - £249 for the purchase of portable PA system
- Bloomin' Ashley - contribution towards Christmas project

Further applications for grant assistance towards projects that will benefit the community are welcome. The Council's Finance Committee will consider any such applications at its meeting in February.

### Parish Councillors by Ward

#### Loggerheads Ward

(two vacancies)

- 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

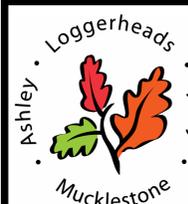
#### Tyrley Ward

- (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, 25th October at Oddfellows Hall, Ashley  
Thursday, 22nd November at Ashley Methodist Church  
Thursday, 20th December—venue to be confirmed  
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

**THE FUTURE OF LOGGERHEADS**  
see inside for details of  
the Borough Council's consultation  
on its "Site Allocations and Policy Plan"  
and the Parish Council's response

### NIGHT TIME STREET LIGHTING

The Parish Council would like to thank those who have responded to its consultation on the possible changes to night-time street lighting by completing the questionnaire enclosed in the previous issue of the newsletter. A full analysis of the responses will be undertaken shortly and reported in the next issue of "YOUR Parish Council". In the meantime, Staffordshire County Council has made clear that as part of its renewal programme for street lighting, the dimming of lights will occur between the hours of midnight and 5.30am.

## Housing Site Allocations and the Future of Loggerheads

During September, the Parish Council arranged to distribute a letter to all households in the civil parish setting out the background to, and the implications of, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council's consultation on its "Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan: Issues and Options" paper, a key element of the development of the Borough's Local Plan for the period to 2026.

It was pointed out that this exercise will have a potentially major impact upon the future character and size of Loggerheads. The Parish Council believes that the matter is of such fundamental importance that residents should be consistently encouraged to engage with the process, in order that their interests are respected and safeguarded and that the Borough Council's pays heed to their concerns. We therefore make no apology for now re-stating the information conveyed in that letter to ensure that the message reaches as many residents as possible. Whilst the Borough Council's 1<sup>st</sup> October deadline for comment on the initial consultation will have passed by the time this newsletter reaches you, it remains crucial that the issues remain subject to monitoring and review by all who care about the future of Loggerheads.

Upon adoption, the Borough Council's Local Plan will allocate land for development and guide all planning decisions in the Borough. It will also identify key spatial boundaries **including the settlement boundaries for villages** in the rural area and the boundaries of areas which should be protected and safeguarded. At the heart of the recent "Issues and Options" paper is the Borough Council's objective related to provision of new housing, defined in its "Core Spatial Strategy", adopted in June 2009, as follows:-

***"There will be a maximum of 900 net additional dwellings of high design quality primarily located on sustainable brownfield land within the village envelopes of the key rural service centres, namely Loggerheads, Madeley and the villages of Audley Parish, to meet identified local requirements; in particular, the need for affordable housing".***

The "Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan" addresses the identification of specific sites selected to meet the Borough Council's objectives in allocating land for development, and will underpin future planning decisions in the Borough. The Local Plan itself actually covers the period 2006-2026 and, of the maximum 900 houses in the rural areas specified in the Core Spatial Strategy, a further 630 could be built if suitable sites are located.

**This is your opportunity to have an impact on the future character of the village**

The Parish Council has itself given detailed consideration to the issues arising from this process, having heard the views of residents expressed at the public meeting hosted by the Borough Council held at Ashley Memorial Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> August to launch its six-week consultation.

Amongst the problems identified, there are major concerns arising from the condition of the A53 highway immediately to the west of the village centre, which have been heightened by approval of plans to build a new Community Fire Station on Market Drayton Road. It is also evident that the storm drains on this stretch of road appear unable to cope with heavy showers and the safety of pedestrians is invariably compromised in wet weather. The Parish Council has in recent years consistently pressed the case for the twin mini-roundabouts at the interchange of the A53 and B5029 to be remodeled prior to any further housing development being permitted in the vicinity. The lack of public transport, the limited opportunities for employment in the village, the fact that the local schools have limited additional capacity, and the relative lack of community and retail facilities will also be highlighted in the Parish Council's own response to the Consultation. It was evident that there was considerable support at the public meeting for a proposal that all these infrastructure problems should be resolved before any more development takes place in Loggerheads.

In light of the shortcomings identified, the Parish Council has questioned the Borough's decision to designate Loggerheads as a 'Key Rural Service Centre', as defined in the Core Spatial Strategy, in the context of prospective development. The Parish Council does not consider that Loggerheads is a 'sustainable' location for further development, in the terms implied in the Borough Council's document.

The next stage of consultation will involve the preparation of a Draft Options Report which the Borough Council has indicated will be published in the spring of 2013.

The Parish Council will post regular up-dates on the progress of the Consultation on its website, [www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.com](http://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.com) Councillors will also be available at surgeries being held at the Community Information Shop in the Library, on Mondays from 11am to 1pm, to discuss concerns and receive questions from residents as the process evolves over the coming months.

Queries regarding the consultation documents, or the Site allocations and Policies Local Plan process, can also be directed to the Borough Council, either by email [siteallocations@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:siteallocations@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or telephone 01782 742408, quoting 'Local Plan'.