

DELIVERING FOR THE ECCLESHALL AREA



NEWSLETTER 8 | SUMMER 2018

The aim of this Newsletter is to bring together various pieces of topical, but local, news from across the Eccleshall, Swynnerton, Trentham and Yarnfield areas – and all areas in-between. It is not designed to be an exhaustive list of all the things that I have been involved with nor a list of the 'most important' but instead just something positive and informative.

The latest newsletter covers news of Stafford's work towards being a dementia friendly community by 2020, the launch of Stafford Together - a sustainable charitable giving fund supporting local people, success with lobbying government on funding for housing (of all types and tenures) and work with local businesses to support the local economy.



Stafford Library exhibition of dementia art with Diane Wallace

Stafford Borough - Dementia Friendly 2020

Today 7% of people over the age of 65 are living with dementia – that's over 700,000 people in England, according to NHS England - with the number set to double in the next 30 years, as the population ages.

So it is important to raise the awareness of the disease so that we can support people to live well with dementia, in their own homes and communities, helping to maintain a stable environment for as long as possible.

There is a vision for the wider Stafford area to be dementia friendly by 2020 with many

organisations coming on board including :-

- Newcastle and Stafford Colleges
- Stafford Borough Council
- Staffordshire Library Service
- HM Prison Drake Hall
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue
- Freedom Leisure - Stafford and Stone Leisure Centres and Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
- Staffordshire University and
- Stafford Town Centre Partnership

There are now 2,000 new Dementia Friends. For more information talk to Diane Wallace on 01785 215678.

In this edition

Stafford Dementia

Friendly 2020

The journey to raise awareness of dementia and help people to live well with dementia

Norton Bridge's Family Recreation Area

Celebrating delivering a long-held community aspiration

- First Bus – Please Use It, or risk losing it
- Supporting the Local Economy and Businesses
- Helping our High Streets and local economy thrive
- Launch of Stafford Together
- Supported Accommodation Funding – an update
- Funding Sources

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NEWSLETTER ON TO
YOUR FRIENDS
AND ASK THEM TO
SUBSCRIBE**

Was formally opened by reigning Olympic Gold Medal canoeist Joe Clarke MBE, supported by The High Sheriff for Staffordshire, Pippa Gee and the Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Stafford Borough, Councillors Ray and Jenny Barron in June 2018.

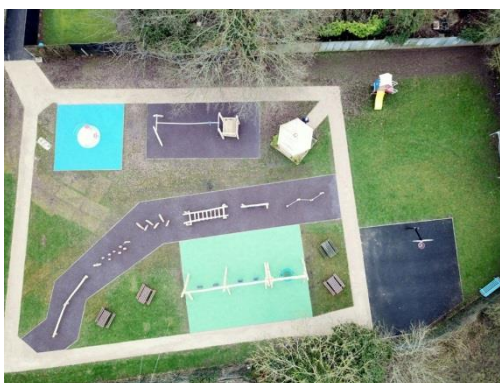
The project led by Chebsey Parish Council and Friends of Norton Bridge, on what was once a Stafford Borough Council play area, raised in excess of £50,000 in a little over two years, proving what can be achieved when a community comes together with a common objective.



At the Community Opening of Norton Bridge Recreation Area



The project was led by Parish Council Chair and Vice Chair, Councillors Marg Ainsworth-Hickman and Mark Wilson respectively.



And involved lots of members of the community across Chebsey Parish, young and older, including many people who had not volunteered before and succeeded in bringing the whole community together.

Aerial Shots of the Norton Bridge Family Recreation Area

Photographs Courtesy of Councillor Mark Wilson

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Bus Services – Need Passengers to Keep Running



Bus Services are a vital community link, particularly in rural areas and as people get older. However to survive they need passengers to remain viable. This is certainly true about the Number 72 and 72a Bus linking Ferndown Drive to Newcastle via Clayton Village.

Never has the well-worn phrase 'Use it – or lose it' been so apt. There are two things that local residents in that area can do to keep their treasured bus service –

- Firstly use the bus as much as possible, it will reduce congestion and pollution, whilst being highly punctual and reliable and keep it on the road
- Secondly – and this does not affect people's rights to use their bus passes – but if people with concessionary travel **can afford** to pay for their journeys, then doing so by not showing their bus pass may just keep the bus financially viable for the operator – and on the road.

Tough times call for us all to work together.

With the announcement in March 2018 of the possible closure of Gist's operating base at Raleigh Hall Industrial Estate in Eccleshall and the threat to the 160 jobs onsite, a rapid reaction taskforce – including Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council and the Department for Work and Pensions - was created and parachuted onto site.

Thanks to this fast reaction, the transfer of staff to other Gist sites and the employment of others at local logistics companies, the net impact was that 37 employees were made redundant, with the majority of those coming from further afield – minimising the impact on the local economy.

GIST – Raleigh Hall, Eccleshall Closure



Disappointing to see the loss of a large local employer, but the impact on the area could have been far greater without the actions taken.



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Additional Car Parking for Eccleshall Shoppers



Thanks to an agreement with Matthew Ellis, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire, to use the Eccleshall Police Station car park, thirteen authorised traders have been able to park their cars off the main thoroughfares in Eccleshall, to leave even more space for their customers to come and frequent all of the delights that Eccleshall has to offer - from award winning Master Butchers, Bakers, Florists and clothes shops through to quality eateries and hostellers.

The scheme cost £500 to implement and was up and running within 5 weeks of the agreement.

BBC Radio Stoke Supports Dementia Awareness Week

At the end of May, BBC Radio Stoke ran a series of interviews and features on fifty organisations, groups and individuals involved with dementia in one way or another – from running community cafés through to HM Prison Drake Hall being the first Prison Service run prison in England and Wales to be Dementia Friendly.



Bethan Ward's (of Eccleshall) input and drive was invaluable in getting the scheme running.

However, despite the signage being clear that this is a private car park for authorised users only, a number of people continue to abuse the scheme, which is threatening its continuation – the same old story 'the mindless actions of a few could cause problems to the majority'



At the start of the scheme with PCC, Matthew Ellis, Chief Inspector, Gemma Ward and some of Eccleshall's finest



BBC Radio Stoke on average has 127,000 listeners each week, so the level of intensive programming will undoubtedly have helped raise everyone's knowledge and awareness of this debilitating disease.

Thanks go to Lamont Howie (opposite), BBC Radio Stoke's Senior Reporter for this Community Feature and his energy in making a difference in our area.

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Stafford Together – local fund raising for local people

At this year's County Show Stafford Together was launched - a new charitable giving fund for the local area :



It's objective is to allow Stafford based people to raise money, to support local people with 100% of the money raised staying locally, not consumed in administration or running costs.



Staffordshire County Show - at the launch of Stafford Together with the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Mr. Ian Dudson and Dr. Ram Ramgopal

Equally because only the interest from the moneys raised is used to support the local third sector, it will be sustainable and supporting good causes in fifty or a hundred years time.

The fund launched with £45,000 and has a target of £1m over the next three to five years.



Crowds being entertained at Stafford Together's stand at the County Show and Virgin Trains, Stafford getting involved with Stafford Together

For further details of how to get involved please go to [Stafford Together's Facebook Page](#) or the Community Foundation for Staffordshire's website – [Stafford Together](#).

Funding of Supported Accommodation – some progress at last

For anyone who has followed all 8 Newsletters, they will know that I have long campaigned for a couple of positive changes to the funding by central government of supported housing – this affects not only people in short term accommodation like homeless hostels, shelters and refuges but also in long term housing like sheltered and supported housing schemes.

In early August came the news from government that this lobbying in part had been successful and government would row-back from proposals

to remove the funding source from Housing Authorities.



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

This is the most positive news in this area in a long time, with further consultation to happen on the funding of support also announced. So more work to be done but progress nonetheless.



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News in Brief**Voluntary Sector Funding****Police and Crime Commissioner's People Power Fund**

The second round of this year's scheme is currently open for applications of between £100 and £3,000 but closes on 14th September 2018.

Further details are available at :

<https://staffsfoundation.org.uk/grants/pccpeoplepowerfund/>

Community Safer Roads Partnership Grants

This scheme is open until 14th September 2018 and is designed to target areas and roads with heightened public concern.

Further details are available at :

<https://staffsfoundation.org.uk/grants/saferroads/>

Congratulations – Best Kept Village

Amongst others to **Swynnerton** on their Highly Commended in the Small Village Category and to **Tittensor** on their Success as Best Kept Village in the County.

One of the reasons our communities are thriving is thanks to all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers – so thank you to them and all that they do to make Staffordshire such a great place to live.

Four Dreaded Letters – GDPR (and Your information)

There are clear policies and protocols that are used when publishing this newsletter including an ability to have your name removed from further newsletters and communications and the right of anonymity.

As part of the data policy, I am committed to protecting and respecting your privacy in compliance with EU - General Data Protection

Stafford Borough Council's Small Community Grants Scheme

Is for grants of £100 - £1,000. The final grant-making round of 2018 closes on 24th October 2018. Further details are available at :

<https://staffsfoundation.org.uk/grants/staffordboroughcouncilsmallgrantsscheme/>

County Councillors Community Grants Scheme

There is a pot of £7,500 to help support local communities and community groups in the Eccleshall division, which in the past has helped schemes from creating apps for social prescribing through to supporting the re-dedication of the War Memorial in Eccleshall and the starting of a ParkRun in Stafford. Please contact me for further details and if there is any funding available.

Stafford Borough Community Awards

We all know of an unsung hero or a group that deserves recognition for all that they do, so this year may be the ideal time to nominate them for a Community Award.

The closing date to nominate someone for a Community Award is 7th September 2018. Further details are available at :-

<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/communityawards>

Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679, dated April 27th 2016. In addition to which you have the following rights with respect to your personal data :

- The right to request a copy of your personal data that is held about you
- The right to request that your personal data is corrected, if inaccurate or out of date

Please feel free to contact me with any data questions or concerns that you have.

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