



DELIVERING FOR THE ECCLESHALL AREA

This newsletter has been going since December 2015, and if this is the first time that you have seen it, please send me an email to subscribe electronically to keep up to date with topical news and stories on what I have been up to as the elected representative for the area on both Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councils, working to support everyone across the Eccleshall, Swynnerton, Trentham and Yarnfield areas – and all areas in-between. This latest newsletter is not designed to be an exhaustive list of all the things I have been involved with nor a list of the 'most important' but instead just something interesting & informative.

Borough and County Councillor Jeremy Pert

In this edition, we talk about :-

- Acting on community concerns in Cotes Heath and Norton Bridge
- The importance of getting involved with the Community Consultation on how you want Eccleshall to look over the next 10—15 years

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Acting on community concerns in Cotes Heath

Working to Improve Safety

Residents of the houses built in Cotes Heath at Nelson Crescent in the early 1990s have long felt that they took their lives in their hands when turning into and out of the road onto the A519 due to the speed of traffic and the poor visibility at the junction.

In 2018 after many months of discussions with the local land owner adjacent to the junction, a hedge row was removed to help improve the distance that residents could see when at the junction with the main A Road, in an effort to improve safety.

Residents ongoing concerns were heard during a number of site visits to Cotes Heath by members of Staffordshire Highways team, with a petition also being delivered to Staffordshire County Council at a meeting of the full Council in July 2018.

Further work was undertaken last Winter and a scheme involving a reduction in the speed of traffic from 60mph to 40mph was proposed by County Highways alongside improvements to the



Residents from Cotes Heath and Councillors from Standon Parish Council following the introduction of new safety measures on the A519

junction signs through the village.

These improvements were delivered at the end of July 2019 and have encouraged residents to set up a Community Speedwatch group locally to help persuade road users to stick to the new limit.

The cost of the scheme has come to £7,500 due to the relatively high cost of consultation and securing a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and is equivalent to the whole year's Highways spend across the Division.

Through the residents working together with Standon Parish Council and the County Council we have been able to resolve some longstanding concerns and improve safety for the benefit of all.



Introduction of new speed limit on A519

London House Celebrates Eighteenth by Raising £1,400



Mo Miah of London House Restaurant celebrating 18 years in Eccleshall, with Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Stafford Borough, Councillor Gareth Jones and Mrs. Renee Robinson

London House Indian Restaurant wanted to mark the occasion of their eighteenth anniversary on the High Street in Eccleshall by completely refurbishing their restaurant from top to bottom, including revamping their menu to offer diners a wider range of specialty dishes.

To mark their official re-opening, they invited the Mayor of Stafford Borough and the Lady Mayoress and offered free food to diners for one night.

The event raised £1,400 to support homeless people in Bangladesh, who had been affected by flooding the year before, by helping to build new houses for them.

Good luck to London House in the Curry Life Awards — you can still vote for them at <http://currylifeawards.com/customers-nomination/>

Potholes — please report them

The best way of getting a pot hole fixed is to report it online or via telephone—it will be assessed and then prioritised

I have reported plenty of pot holes over the last two years—and some of the worst ones were on the minor road network.

The ones linking Whitgreave and in Little Sugnall were some of the worst, as was the A519 at Cotes Heath.

Despite continual discussion on how best to get potholes fixed,

the message is not fully understood - that pot holes won't be looked at if the County Council is not aware of them.

Today there are not the reactive crews to go and survey each and every road in the County (- all 3,950 miles of them, 86% being minor roads). Instead country lanes are only surveyed

annually, so unreported problems could go a maximum of a year without being picked up.

Reporting highways faults can be done online at :-
<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

Or by telephone at :
0300 111 8000

Indicative Highways Costs Booklet Created



All local Parish Councils have received a copy of the booklet created by myself and Amey Highways

Parish Councils are often inundated with suggestions as to what highways improvements residents want to see. Often these schemes are great ideas to solve one problem or another but the cost of delivering them makes them impractical and it is often better to spend the time designing in solutions at the time of inception of road schemes rather than trying to come back to them at a later date.

Understanding the cost of schemes versus the benefit can be helpful in prioritising schemes across a wider area and working with Amey, I created this new almanac of highways costs to help inform discussions.

To contact me

EMAIL

jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

TELEPHONE

07740 924659

POST

Bank Farm,
Croxtton,
STAFFORDSHIRE
ST21 6PE

For Further

Information

– please visit

www.jeremypert.c

[o.uk](http://www.jeremypert.c)



Tittensor Best Kept Village Triumph (again)

Tittensor triumphed in this year's Staffordshire Best Kept Village Competition for the second year in a row in the Small Village Category, taking the Stafford and County titles.

A newly created children's garden including a hedge hog hotel were part of the innovative ideas that persuaded the judges. The creation of the children's garden was supported financially in 2018 with a County Councillor's Community Grant, which goes to show how small amounts of funding can go an awfully long way in creating lasting community value.



Tittensor celebrates winning Best Kept Village, Small Village for the second year in succession

Congratulations to both the BKV team in Tittensor and to the BKV team in Swynnerton who came third with their entry this year.

Stafford & Rural Homes Garden Competition

Pride in people's homes and communities was shown aplenty at this year's Stafford and Rural Homes Garden Competition, with people of all ages taking part and being successful.

Categories included Best Lawn, Best Communal Gardener and an award for the Best Wildlife / Eco Garden. Additionally there was an award for best Newcomer to help inspire new entrants, with spoils being shared out across the whole Borough area, including locally in Croxton.

The awards are a great demonstration of the pride that people have in the places that they live and fits the maxim of "A great place to live, work and grow".



Floral Displays at SARH Garden Competition Awards with SARH Chief Exec, Karen Armitage, and Customer-representative Board Member, Gillian Pardesi

Linking People to Work Opportunities

A new bus stop has been added to Eccleshall's Raleigh Hall Industrial Estate following pleas from local businesses who wanted to link employment opportunities with where people lived.

Concerns had been raised about the availability of suitably qualified people to fill a variety of vacancies that existed within businesses on the Industrial Estate, which when the bus operator, D & G Buses, heard about they were only too pleased to add a new stop outside the industrial estate in record breaking time.

Linking people to employment seems to work for all



D & G Buses adding an extra stop at Raleigh Hall Industrial Estate to link people with employment



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EMAIL

jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

TELEPHONE

07740 924659

POST

Bank Farm,
Croxton,
STAFFORDSHIRE
ST21 6PE

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Norton Bridge Speed Limit comes after 71 years of discussion



Norton Bridge benefitted in June 2019 from a speed limit reduction to 30mph through the village, with a 40mph buffer zone linking the surrounding hamlets

Norton Bridge residents and Chebsey Parish Council has been pushing for a reduced speed limit of 30mph through the village of Norton Bridge since 1948—and it was finally delivered in June, as part of my County Councillor's Divisional Highways spend.

The project has actively been on the drawing board for the past two years and its final delivery has been welcomed, particularly with the increased movement through the village with the opening of the new family recreation area twelve months ago.

The Friends of Norton Bridge have financially supported the delivery of the scheme to enable it to be delivered sooner, demonstrating that few organizations—even the County Council—have the financial clout to be able to deliver things that matter to residents and communities on their own.

Getting Inspired to do our Bit for others in our community

**Doing
Our
Bit.info**

Staffordshire County Council have launched a new campaign which allows members of the community to pledge to do something for themselves and others,

that makes a real difference.

It could be mowing an elderly neighbour's lawn or getting out into the community to talk to someone who is lonely and feels isolated.

The principle is that small things being done by many people across Staffordshire can make a real difference to everyone's lives in our community. It can also allow the County Council to focus its resources on supporting those most vulnerable in our community.

Further details and **a commitments page** can be found at

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/DoingOurBit/Get-Inspired/Get-inspired.aspx>

Joining Stafford Rotary's Sleep Out to raise £2,540



Stafford Rotary Club organised a sponsored Sleep Out to support the work in six Stafford schools on substance abuse by Stone based charity Re-solv

A mild night in May 2019 saw twenty people from a wide range of backgrounds spend the night sleeping out in sleeping bags and make-shift structures to highlight the issue of rough sleeping and in particular the issues of mental health and multiple addictions.

The event raised over £2,500 to support work in schools.

To contact me

EMAIL

jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

TELEPHONE

07740 924659

POST

Bank Farm,
Croxtton,
STAFFORDSHIRE
ST21 6PE

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Information

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www.jeremypert.co.uk



We want your views : “How you would like Eccleshall to look in the next 10—15 years”

“Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago”

— Warren Buffett

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now”

— Alan Lakein

Over 1,400 copies of a set of potential ideas for how Eccleshall could develop over the next ten to fifteen years has been delivered to all the houses in Eccleshall town over the past month, but is open for anyone to complete.

The plan covers areas like :-

- the importance of the High Street to Eccleshall and what could be done to help sustain and support the town centre
- Supporting local employment
- Understanding the facilities people would like to see locally

The plan is not designed to be in a ‘finished form’ but to help elicit thoughts and ideas and for people to use the consultation forms—with their sections for comments—to show which bits they like, loath or would additionally add-in.

The consultation is open until Sunday 29th September 2019 and **everyone is urged to participate by filling one in**. Documents can be found at :-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Eccyconsults>

It is likely that a Community Interest Company will be the central delivery mechanism, so that has already been set-up to help turn some of the plans into reality —once the consultation has finished and the results analysed.

It is hoped to reach out to any interested individuals and groups to help support the efforts to deliver these plans, as it is recognized that without everyone's support and endeavours we won't be able to deliver the things that matter to people locally, as in today's world of funding shortages, we need to think and act in a different way.

Please feel free to offer any support you can give.



Eccleshall consultation—the next ten years and beyond is available online and from the library and is open until 29th September 2019. This could help determine what is delivered over the next decade or more locally.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Eccyconsults>

Eccleshall Police Station — a Community Asset ?

When the Police and Crime Commissioner announced that nine police stations had been made surplus to police operational requirements and planned to sell these, a task force from across the community was set up to look how best to acquire the Eccleshall station for community use.

It has now been listed as an asset of community value with the Borough Council and various discussions have been explored to see how it might work successfully as a car park and what the building could best be used for. The best way of keeping it for community benefit long term looks to be buying it through a Community Interest Company and securing grants through the Local Enterprise Partnership and others so that any cost to local residents can be kept to an absolute minimum.



Eccleshall Police Station has been used to keep 13 cars off the High Street, since May 2018



To contact me

EMAIL

jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

TELEPHONE

07740 924659

POST

**Bank Farm,
Croxtan,
STAFFORDSHIRE
ST21 6PE**

For Further

**Information
– please visit**

www.jeremypert.co.uk



**BOROUGH AND
COUNTY
COUNCILLOR
JEREMY PERT**

Bank Farm,
Croxton,
Staffordshire
ST21 6PE

Phone: (07740) 924659

Email:

jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

.uk

www.jeremypert.co.uk

DELIVERING FOR THE ECCLESHALL AREA

Councillor Jeremy Pert is the elected member to Staffordshire County and Stafford Borough Councils for the area west of Stafford over to the border with Loggerheads and as far north as Trentham and most of the areas in-between (- for the exact area please see website—www.jeremypert.co.uk).

I have been an elected Borough Councillor for the past nine years and prior to that was a Parish Councillor for ten years on Eccleshall Parish Council. I am the Cabinet Member for Community & Health on the Borough Council and Cabinet Support Member for Community for Stafford Area at County.

I am heavily involved with numerous community groups including Eccleshall Eagles Junior Football Club, Stafford Together, Stafford United Charities, etc.

For more general details and work please visit www.jeremypert.co.uk

Stafford – Week of Action

Staffordshire Police joined forces with the Borough Council early in August to spend a week focusing in on anti-social and criminal behavior in Stafford town centre.

During that week, there was a heavy-weight presence, engaging with members of the public, with the neighbourhood police team pairing up with groups from within Stafford Borough Council including community safety, housing, environmental health, licensing and Streetscene. The Stafford Street Pastors were also supporting the week alongside other agencies.

The aim of the week was to support police in addressing issues of concern to local residents



The Borough Council joined forces with the Police to focus in on anti-social and criminal behaviour in Stafford town centre, with Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy

within the borough, including bikes being ridden through the town centre, drunken and disorderly and anti-social behavior.

The work led to a number of dispersal

notices, community protection notice warnings, summonses and arrests being made and is part of a more focused approach to Stafford town centre across all partners.

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 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.

**Representative
STAFFORDSHIRE
COUNTY & STAFFORD
BOROUGH COUNCILS**

To contact me

EMAIL

jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

TELEPHONE

07740 924659

POST

Bank Farm,
Croxton,
STAFFORDSHIRE
ST21 6PE

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