



YOUR Parish Council

The newsletter of Loggerheads Parish Council

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Jess Jenkinson

Issue 6
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Loggerheads Parish Council Room
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www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.com

Dear Resident,

Happy new year !! As I write this on the 7th of January we are in the grip of a cold snap that we have not been used to or seen for a number of years . Several days & nights of frost with a skittering of snow thrown in do not seem to have caused too much chaos in our area although the gritting of this parish has, I feel left a lot to be desired with many of our roads having not seen a gritter for several days leaving the roads like 'ice rinks' & the footpaths in a treacherous state . I feel that this is unacceptable & I made Staffordshire County Highways aware of my concerns & I was told that changes were made to gritting routes in the financial year 2005/06 . These had not been implemented until a recent change in personnel who are following instructions more carefully - Did Highways consult with anyone about the changes- NO!!! I will persevere with this task of getting improvements .

The planning meeting for the wind turbines application in Maer Hills has still not taken place after the cancellation of the meeting in December & I am no wiser to when this will take place . The rumoured possible site for another wind turbine application near Ashley has moved no further forward as far as the Parish Council are concerned & we wait to see if an application is forthcoming . For the latest on both of the above please keep an eye on our website which we shall update as soon as we have information or in the local press .

As you will be aware by now the application for the wind turbines & access road at Knighton was refused by Newcastle Borough & North Shropshire Councils & the applicant has appealed against these decisions . The date for this appeal has not been set yet with dates varying between March & November talked about but the latest I've heard is the possibility of holding it in early May . The Parish Council has requested, that the appeal which could last up to 10 days, is held locally in either Ashley or Knighton village halls .

The date is set for the appeal for the planning proposal for the site of the former Green Bungalow on the A53 - again the parish council asked for this to be held locally so its easier for concerned residents to attend - I hope as many as possible will attend , the information is covered elsewhere in this newsletter .

I hope that if you have access to the internet that you have checked out the councils website & we welcome any feedback . If you have got any 'whats ons' please lets us have them & we will help promote your events.

(Cllr Ed Martin—Chairman)

The Road to Nowhere??

Eagle eyed media followers may have noticed my mug in the Sentinel back before Christmas complaining about the appalling quality of our local County Council provided road signs.

It now appears that as there are a number of new signs (and.....surprise surprise.....long overdue corrections to where the blighters are pointing) sprouting up throughout our Parish that things are on the move. However we now await the solution to the strange mystery of our missing (but not sorely missed abominations of dilapidated) village gateway signs at the Drayton end on the A53.

Visitors from Shropshire, Wales and further afield now have not idea of whence they have come upon when they enter our village centre because the County has taken down the old wrecks and forgotten to put up new ones....by the way, County Council, they used to say "Welcome to Creative Staffordshire"....could Stafford be most creative therefore and give us some new ones!!!!!!

Ashley Howells (Vice Chair)



**List of
Parish Councillors
By Ward**

Loggerheads Ward

- Councillor Ian Douglas
- Councillor Sue Fox
- Councillor David Howell
- Councillor Ed Martin
- Councillor Ron Perry
- Councillor David Loades
- Councillor Sam Wallbanks
- Councillor Sherrie Thorley

Ashley Ward

- Councillor Dan Ellis
- Councillor Bunty Hodgkins
- Councillor Ashley Howells
- Councillor Alan Machin
- Councillor Chris Taylor

Mucklestone Ward

- Councillor Jamie Friend
- Councillor Graham Sedgley
- Councillor Jim Vallings

Tyrley Ward

- Councillor Bert Bennion
- Councillor Roy Claydon
- Councillor Jane Hughes

All Councillors can be contacted on 01630 673426 or by email

loggerheadspc@btconnect.com

Future Meeting Dates

Thursday 26 February 2009
(Oddfellows Hall, Ashley)

Thursday 26 March 2009

Thursday 23 April 2009

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

MEETINGS COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PLANNING COMMITTEE WHICH IS AT 7PM

All meetings are open to the public, there is a public participation session prior to the start of the meeting, please come along and share your issues and views with us



Poplar Lane Wind Farm Update

At present the Parish Council is awaiting confirmation of the date of the hearing for the Wind Farm, once we receive any information we will post it on the website and include it in a future newsletter.

Overhanging Branches

Following a number of complaints from residents within the parish, this is a polite notice for any resident who lives next to a footpath to cut back any overhanging branches, in particular along the A53. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Loggerheads Parish Funday

The next meeting of the Loggerheads Parish Funday will be held on Wednesday 11 February 2009 @ 8pm at the Loggerheads Pub. Look forward to seeing you there!



Green Bungalow Appeal

The Planning Inspectorate will be holding an appeal on Wednesday 11 February 2009 @ 10:00am at Ashley Memorial Hall, Gravelly Bank. Interested parties may attend the Hearing and at the Inspectors discretion make comments relevant to the appeal.

STAND UP FOR STAFFORDSHIRE

The following article is about minerals planning in Staffordshire; but before you stop reading please understand that this is not a plea to stop a specific quarry but rather an analysis of certain key features of County and Regional planning procedure which are probably less than perfect, certainly less than democratic.

Are you aware that Staffordshire is the largest exporter of sand and gravel in the United Kingdom? Our county also supplies about some 65% of the total demand for the West Midlands region. This is especially significant because the region includes big counties like Shropshire, Hereford, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, and the West Midlands itself including the Black Country (including Unitary Authorities), as well as our own Staffordshire. To be fair, Staffordshire has sizeable reserves of high quality aggregate, and sand and gravel can only be mined where it exists. Still, how is this 65% figure derived? The answer is:- it's simply an average of three years of past, historical production. So it's backward looking and thereby locks our Country into an unending commitment to produce more and more new quarries. It also ignores other concerns such as the cumulative impact (to our landscape, roads - HGVs - and quality of life) of the numerous quarries which must be exploited to achieve the County's fixed aggregate targets. This planning approach has been effective in identifying huge quantities of sand and gravel "landbank" reserves (75% of the total West Midlands region). Indeed, quarry enthusiasm amongst planners has helped produce the current oversupply conditions in the market as evidenced by the fact that over one-third of the County's quarries are described as "non-operational" - not producing but also not reinstated to countryside.

Graham D Sedgley

Annual Parish Meeting

On Thursday 16 April, Loggerheads Parish Council will be holding their Annual Parish Meeting, this is a real opportunity for residents to get involved as you determine what is on the agenda for discussion. Please forward any agenda items to the clerk by Friday 3 April 2009 using contact methods on the front of this newsletter.