



Chairman
Cllr. Joy Bennett
01782 398688



Clerk to F.P.C.
Stephen Beck
01782 398090
Office 01782 385187
mailto:
stephen_beck@btconnect.com

Parish Council News

Chairman's Report

As you are aware, we were unsuccessful as a Parish in our bid for Playbuilder funding – which may have been a blessing in disguise after hearing of the recent withdrawal of funding for approved schemes in our area. We are still committed to providing a play area for the younger members of our community and would like to appeal to our residents for help. The parish has funds set aside towards the development of an outdoor play/sports area which we propose to create on Grindley Park, off Grindley Lane. We do not have sufficient funds to do this on our own and, in order to apply for other funding, we would like to hear from anyone who may be able to draw up detailed plans for submission with our application – this may be an architect, or a planner, or someone good at CAD or IT that can give us some of their time on a voluntary basis in order that we can move this project forward. Without a professional plan, we cannot submit a grant application and without additional funding, we can only build a small play area. If anyone can help, could they please contact our Clerk at the parish office or by e-mail?

St Francis Church at Meir Heath now has a new Ministry. On Saturday 14th August 2010, I was

honoured to represent the Fulford parish during the Institution and Induction of Revd Dr David McHardy by Rt. Revd Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield. The church was packed with worshippers to welcome Dr McHardy and his family to our community. We hope that he and his wide Ann and daughter Hannah settle in well to our community.

May we once again make a plea to ask people not to park on grass verges? Not only does it damage grass, it also prevents the verges from being maintained by our contractors. If you have visitors or tradesmen visiting your homes, could you please ask them not to park on the verges? Staffordshire County Council Highways Department, through the Community Gangs, have re-seeded damaged verges on Grindley Lane earlier in the year but they have already been damaged by inconsiderate drivers. The verges and footpaths are considered to be part of the Highways and the offence of obstruction is being committed, which can be enforced by the Police.

Finally, congratulations to the residents of Fulford who have been Highly Commended in Best Kept Village 2010.

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01782 393157

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01782 393140

Cllr. Shirley Wheat
01782 395133

Blythe Bridge Ward News

Mayfield Drive

The notice board for Mayfield Drive has now arrived and been installed. You will be able to see information about the parish council and local issues, e.g. events organised by Stafford and Rural Homes. The Police also display information in the Parish notice boards.

Safer Routes to School

This is still ongoing in the Blythe Bridge area, most of the work for the Grindley Lane part of the project has been completed with just small amounts of work to finish off.

Parking

This is still causing problems on Grindley Lane, Ridgway Drive, Aynsley Drive and at the entrance to Sutherland Crescent closest to Springcroft School. Please consider other road users when parking, especially when you block people's drives. We are again asking people not to park on the pavement or cycle track on Grindley Lane. Please park in your drive or on the road and ask workman to do the same. The cycle track is there for the young cyclist to be able to cycle safely and not to have to manoeuvre around cars or vans.

Pavements

The pavements continue to be resurfaced; work carried out on Grindley Lane by Springcroft School and below was undertaken whilst the school children were on holiday. When this stretch of pavement has been completed work will resume on the Sutherland Crescent estate. Resurfacing the pavements on the estate is expected to take several months as there is a balance re the number of crews working in such confined residential streets with the length of time it will take to make sure that the overall disruption is kept to a minimum. These works make up a significant proportion of Staffordshire Highways footway structural maintenance programme this year which will mean the footways will be in good condition for many years to come.

The footpath by Blythe Lodge has now been widened. The bollards that were requested by the entrance to Blythe Lodge to stop cars parking are now in place. The planters outside Blythe Lodge will be resited when the pavement has been resurfaced.

A50

The Parish Council has been asked by parishioners from the Blythe Bridge ward to contact the Highways agency with regards to the completion of the works on the fencing on the slip road to the A50, a copy of this letter is to be sent to Bill Cash MP.

Stallington Lane

Stallington Lane seems to be much quieter now. Speeding is not as bad as it used to be most likely because of the speed gun project, although we have not had any feedback of any results.

The problems we were having under the bypass bridge seem to have gone away; unfortunately the same cannot be said for the residents in the vicinity of Stallington Close. The play area is being used by teenagers who congregate to drink alcohol, and on one occasion a vehicle was seen being driven on the playground. The police are aware of this problem and are doing their best to control the situation, but they cannot be expected to be there all the time. Any information you may have with regards to the misuse of this area, particularly registration numbers, would be helpful to the police although we suspect they are being taxied in.

We are still waiting for a start date for the construction of the mini roundabout at the junction with Fulford Lane.

Blythe Lodge

Blythe Lodge has vacancies for the flats which are available for people who are fifty five years and over. The flats are self contained with one bedroom, their own living room, bathroom and kitchen. As part of the complex there is a communal lounge and kitchen for get-togethers and organised events. Blythe Lodge has weekday visits from an Independent Living Co-ordinator. It has twenty four hours, seven days a week support

from the Community Alarm Service. Blythe Lodge is situated between Creda roundabout and Springcoft Primary School on Grindley Lane. For more information about Blythe Lodge please contact the Independent Living Team by calling on Freephone 0800 111 4334 or E-Mailing at youfirst@sarh.co.uk.

Estate Walkabout

The date for the next estate walkabout has not yet been confirmed. We will let you have the date in the next edition of this Parish Newsletter.

Parking on the grass

Ridgway Drive still has the problem of vehicles parking on the grass on the bend by Blythe Lodge. We have asked the Highways department for white bollards to be put in place but we have had no response to date.

Police Warnings

Please make sure that your house, windows, cars and sheds are securely locked. There have been several break-ins with items stolen during the past few weeks. If you see anything suspicious happening please contact the police on 999. For non-emergency calls and general enquiries contact on 0300 123 4455.

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01782 397629

Cllr. Frank Colclough
01889 505325
Vice Chairman

Cllr. Tony Holmes
01782 395250

Cllr. Grace Holmes
01782 394525

Fulford Ward News

Saverley Green

The Parish Council and local residents have objected to an application to hold an additional 20 days of car boot/markets on land at Saverley House Farm because of the traffic and safety issues as well as the noise and disturbance to the countryside.

Fulford Dale

The Parish Council objected to a planning application to locate a slurry pit relatively close to a neighbouring dwelling. As the Environmental Officer had no objection then the Borough Council has approved the application.

BKV

The group of local residents who teamed up to enter Fulford in the Best Kept Village competition were pleased to again receive “Highly Commended” in the 2010 county competition.

A photographic record of some of the activities that have resulted from this initiative, and other village events, are on a new website <http://www.fulfordvillage.com>.

Please keep up your efforts to keep our village “best kept” throughout the year.

Fulford Village Green

The tarmac surfaced footpaths leading to Highview Road and Kingfisher Crescent are being used by riders on horseback. Not only is this most inconsiderate, it is also an offence. This is a footpath, not a bridleway!

The grass on the Village Green is cut by the Borough Council, but not often enough to maintain its appearance of what is an important feature of this village.

The clearing of debris from the roadsides adjacent to the cobbled kerbsides from the Village Green to the Church has been placed on the work programme for the Neighbourhood Highway Team.

Fulford Village Hall

The mesh fenced area of grass at the rear of the hall is to be drained such that it can be used for more of the year. Other than this very dry spring, there are times throughout the year when it is not usable because of water logging. The committee

also has plans to extend the rear of the main hall to improve the functioning of both halls and give access to the rear area.

Baulk Lane/Vicarage Lane

Car drivers should be aware that these are “Access Only” roads – it has been noted that drivers are using this as a through route, and at inappropriate speeds. The Parish Council is pressing the Highways Authority to introduce traffic calming measures which they are to investigate, but until these are implemented, the police should be informed of offending vehicles such that they can take action.

Broadband

Residents will be aware that their connection speed is poor compared to other areas due to our distance from the Blythe Bridge exchange. This issue has been raised with BT but with no response.

The exchange should have an upgrade (known as ADSL2) installed by the 31st of March 2011, but again due to the distance, this may not offer much improvement in speed. There is no plan yet for this upgrade on the Hilderstone exchange.

Footpaths

The Parish has objected to an informal proposal by the County Council to stop-up a section of the footpath from off Fulford Road and to realign it at Long Lane Head. There are other footpaths around the village that our parish council wishes to address with the county authority.

The Rights Of Way officer has been invited to address the November council meeting.

Gypsy Site

The Borough Council is again being pressed to ensure conformance to the conditions set by the

Planning Inspectorate which allowed the appeal and granted planning permission for the change of use for the stationing of caravans for five gypsy pitches, with utility/ day rooms, access road and areas of hardstanding ancillary to that use, at Woodfield, Hilderstone Road, Spot Acre. Conditions stipulated:

The occupation of the site permitted only the five specified families on no more than five pitches and on each no more than two caravans of which only one caravan shall be a static caravan or mobile home.

The Borough Officer reports that the recent new structures have wheels and therefore may be considered as caravans or mobile homes.

Moss Gate

The work which included piping the ditch and back filling with gravel, requested via the Parish Council, has been undertaken on Moss Lane near its junction at the Spot Acre end.

Crossgate Methodist Chapel

Following the closure of the Chapel, an agreement was made between the Chapel and St Nicholas Church to try to keep some of its memorials in the village. The necessary legal permission was granted, and four memorials have subsequently been transferred. The largest is a marble memorial to James Fieldhouse, who was killed in World War 1. Hugh Harold Hodgskiss was killed in the same conflict. His memorial is a brass plaque which is now mounted on a piece of yew taken from the churchyard.

A framed “Roll of Honour” record from the Chapel of all those from the Parish of Fulford who fought in the WW1 conflict is to be transferred to Fulford Village Hall; there is a similar record in the Church.



Cllr. Mrs. A. Weaver
01782 394029

Cllr. Barry Shaw
01782 394922

Cllr. Roy Taylor
01782 392548

Cllr. Mrs. Wendy
Jennings
01782 398784

Cllr. M. Baggaley
01782 392385

Meir Heath Ward News

Meir Heath Primary School

Head Teacher Peter Siddley has retired after twenty years at the school, and many other years of service as a teacher in North Staffordshire.

After several years in teaching at several schools, Peter joined Meir Heath Primary School as the Deputy Head in 1990, became acting Head in 1994, and was appointed as Head Teacher in the following year. He has served the school with distinction, to the considerable benefit of its pupils over these years and maintained the school's high level of performance, established since the school opened in 1967.

Pupils, parents, school governors, staff - past and present - along with the Meir Heath community, wish Peter a long and happy retirement, and thank him for his outstanding contribution to education.

The new Head Teacher is Mrs Julia Luke, previously the head of Burton Primary School. A warm welcome to Mrs Luke with our best wishes for her success in the future.

Posts on Grass Verges

We have little to report on this item since it appears to be in the hands of the County Highways Department, and, possibly, our County Councillor Mr Ian Parry. We will however try to establish a definitive policy on this matter.

Grindley Park Adventure Playground

Following our failure to secure a grant from the County Council to provide this facility, we are looking to amend the original scheme and produce an inevitably smaller project more in line with our own limited budget. We shall still be looking for alternative grants from wherever we can of course, so we may not have any news for you for a while yet.

Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Would anyone in the parish (or wherever), be prepared and able to set up a website for this organisation? If so please contact Barry Shaw on 394922, or one of the Management Committee.

Planters

We hope you are enjoying the floral displays in the planters at the crossroads. The filling and maintenance of these is done on a voluntary basis, at present by members of your council. We would however, appreciate it if any community spirited folk living locally, would like to volunteer to help, either with their maintenance, such as watering and dead-heading, for instance, or in providing plants for our winter and summer displays. Please contact a ward councillor to volunteer, or for further information. Thank you.

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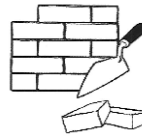
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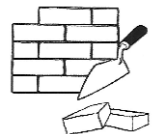
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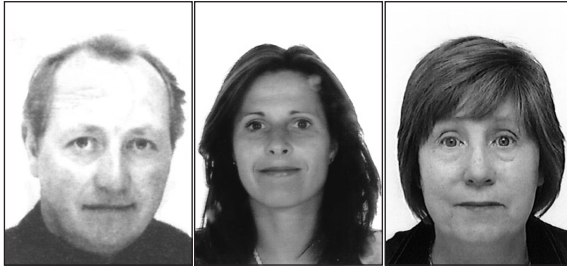
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Cllr.
Andrew Lovatt

Cllr. Joy Bennett
01782 398688
Chairman

Cllr.
Mrs. L. McPherson
01782 397103

Rough Close Ward News

The planters on the corners of West View/Windmill Hill and Leadendale Lane/Stone Rd were tidied up and new summer flowering plants added in June. Whilst the one at West View appears to thrive, the other at Leadendale Lane appears to struggle, possibly through insufficient watering. Your local councillors endeavour to keep the planters filled throughout the year with spring bulbs and a variety of summer and winter flowering plants. We would be very grateful for any help from local residents in keeping an eye on the plants, and giving them the odd drink of water when necessary.

Despite our Spring Clean at the end of April, we appear to be suffering from people dumping litter within our area, mainly from cars. If you experience any substantial “fly tipping” we would be most grateful if you would contact Streetscene on 01785 619000 whose aim is to collect the rubbish within 24 hours of it being reported. The litter picker employed by Fulford Parish Council can only visit each area for a very limited time so any litter picking carried out by the community is much appreciated.

Fulford Parish Council has arranged the purchase of a bench which is to be sited adjacent to the

pond on Cocknage Lane. The bench selected is of metal construction which should prevent vandalism and we are requesting an additional litter bin from Stafford BC to encourage people to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

The cattle have had a good summer on the Common and appear to be achieving the objective of keeping the growth down so that the Common is accessible and pathways kept clear.

It has been drawn to our attention by a resident that the piece of land at the end of West View adjoining Windmill Hill, where the bus shelter used to be in times gone by, is badly overgrown and has rubbish thrown into it. After considerable investigation work, we have ascertained that the land is in the ownership of Staffordshire County Council and their Highways Department has agreed to it being cleared of undergrowth and saplings so that it is in a manageable state again. We await a date for this work to be undertaken, which will require the overhead power lines turned off so that the tree surgeons can tidy up the area.

A plea – Could residents in West View and Windmill Hill please not park on the grass

verges? As a council, we pay for the maintenance of these verges and continual parking of vehicles on them is preventing them from being mowed by our contractors or SARHs mowing contractors, not to mention the damage that is occurring to them.

Finally, with the darker nights drawing in, please be extra vigilant about security – an opportunist thief will take pleasure in exploiting any opportunity available to them.

Bulletin Board

Delivering Key Information Quickly

Fulford Parish Council has a website which is run and updated by the Newsletter Committee of the Parish Council. Please log on to see and find the latest information!

www.fulford-parish-council.org

Contact via the Clerk
stephen_beck@btconnect.com

Blue Bin Recycling Service

Stafford Borough Council has announced that from **13 September 2010** they will be expanding the amount of recyclables that can be recycled in your blue bin.

The enhanced recycling service will enable residents to recycle more items - waxed cartons (eg Tetrapak), foil, aerosols, empty plastic bags and cellophane.

In order to enable them to collect these additional items, alternative arrangements have been made for the separate collection of textiles which will no longer be able to be put in the blue bin after the above date. They are introducing a Dial a Bag service for the collection of textiles which is detailed in the new information booklet which has recently been sent to you.

No longer must textiles be put in the blue bin as it has been found that textiles have become contaminated with broken glass etc., in the blue bin which means that they cannot be re-used.

Meir Heath Windmill Preservation Group

Meir Heath Windmill (circa 1775) is a Grade II listed building.

On June 10th 2010 the Windmill Group with sixty guests, celebrated phase 1 of the Windmill project. The Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford, Councillor Millichip and Mrs Millichip, and the deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Stone joined the Group. Angela Hayward, Ibstock Cory Trust Secretary, and Keith Williams of Staffs Environmental Trust, along with Terry Walsh of Grassroots Fund joined the celebrations. Stone U3A Stone Agers sang a selection of songs.

A thermometer to show how much money is needed for phase 2 is situated outside the mill, and we are grateful for any donations. The committee has received a grant for £164 for an information board outside the mill. Now applications are being sent to various trusts to

obtain funds for Phase II, and possibly Phase III (the dummy sails). As yet the group does not have planning permission from Mitchell and Butler Company, or from Stafford Borough Council. It is therefore not possible to do any more work on the mill until 2011.

Projected Costs:

- Phase I:
Boat Cap/making safe inside £34,000
- Phase II:
Waterproof Render £47,000.
- Phase III:
Dummy Sails ??? £25,000.

Fund Raising Events:

- 16th October....Live Band, 8p.m. at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall. 60s party£5.
- 15th November.....Raymond Rush: “Christmas Customs”. Fish and Chips Supper. Details from Gill Swift 01782 317521.

There will be a display of photographs of the project in Longton Library from 6th September for three weeks; Fenton Library from 27th September, also for three weeks.

Tesco Community Fair, Meir Park: we shall have a stall there on Sunday 26th September.

Shooters Hill and Lightwood Heritage Group: Nicholas Corder will talk about “Some Staffordshire Murderers” at Sandon Business and Enterprise College on 11th October at 7.15 p.m. Admission £2.

Your Parish Council and You

Your council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own, separate from its members. The council has powers granted by Parliament, including raising money by taxation. The money raised by the parish council in this way is called the Parish Precept.

Parish councils represent the interests of their communities; improve the quality of the local environment. Your parish council can influence planning, highways, traffic, safety, housing, and street lighting by liaising with the borough and county councils. We deliver services such as parks, playing fields, litter picking, controlling dog fouling, and keeping open rights of way, as well as providing shelters and seats where needed.

The Clerk to Fulford Parish Council

The clerk is a vital member of any council. The clerk is not just a secretary, and is not at the beck and call of the chairman or any other councillors: the clerk is answerable only to the council as a whole, and is the proper officer of the council in law. The Clerk does not have a vote. Councils



may delegate decisions to clerks because they are professional officers whose independence allows them to act on behalf of the council.

Your Councillors

Your parish council consists of local people who get no financial reward whatsoever for being councillors, neither salary nor expenses. They want to make a positive contribution to their community, and hope to help make their area a better place in which to live. Your parish council is only as good as its councillors, and the quality of councillors is largely in your hands as residents of Fulford Parish, either by volunteering your services at election time, or voting (where appropriate) from the list of candidates.

The local elections are to be held on the 5th May 2011. All seats on the Parish Council will be up for election on that date. If you are interested in

offering your services as a Parish Councillor, and would like to know what it entails, please contact the Parish Clerk, or one of your councillors. This is your chance to make a difference!

Autumn Garden Reminders

You can prevent a lot of wind damage by tying in climbers, and staking tall plants such as dahlias and chrysanthus. Give any newly planted tree a short stake to allow it to sway in the wind, encouraging strong trunk growth.

Lift gladioli and dahlias once the leaves start browning, hang the tubers to dry, then dust with a fungicide and store in a cool frost-free place. Late autumn and winter is the right time to plant bare-rooted plants, which are cheaper than container grown ones.

Plant spring bulbs such as crocus, daffodils and hyacinths now, but leave tulips until November to reduce the risk of fungal disease.

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Finance and General Purposes Committee
Barry Shaw, Ellis Bevan, Tony Holmes,
Frank Colclough, Roy Taylor, Andrew Lovatt,
Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex officio

Grindley Park Management Group
Martin Oxby, Kath Brayford
& all members of Meir Heath & Rough Close Wards

Parish Newsletter Working Party
Richard Mycock, Martin Oxby, Barry Shaw,
Roy Taylor, Andrew Lovatt, Kath Brayford,
Joy Bennett.

Planning Committee
Cllrs. Colclough, Holmes, Mrs. McPherson, Mycock,
Taylor & Chairman & Vice Chairman as ex-officio

Highway Maintenance Liaison Group
Cllrs. Holmes, Oxby, Shaw, Taylor, Mrs. Weaver
& Chairman & Vice Chairman as ex-officio

Representatives to outside bodies

Fulford Primary LEA Governor:

Frank Colclough

Meir Heath Primary School:

Cllr. Barry Shaw

Meir Heath/Rough Close Village Hall:

Cllr. Joy Bennett

Fulford Village Hall:

Cllr. Tony Holmes

Springcroft Primary School LEA Governor:

Cllr. Kath Brayford, Cllr. Richard Mycock

Cllr. Shirley Wheat

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association:

Cllrs. Mrs. Brayford, Holmes and Mrs. McPherson

Sustainable Committee: Cllr. Frank Colclough,

Cllr. Martin Oxby

Staffordshire County Council -

Stone Rural Councillor:

Ian Parry 01782 398338

Stafford Borough Council - Fulford Ward Councillors:

Andrew Harp 01889 505400

Richard Oldfield 01782 392307

Peter Roycroft 01889 505240

Dates for 2010 Parish Council Meetings

Thursday 14th October

Location:

Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall

Thursday 11th November

Location: Fulford Village Hall

Thursday 9th December

Location:

Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall

Note: All meetings start at 7.15pm with an opportunity for any local government elector from the Parish to ask questions of the Parish Council relating to any Parish issue. At the formal meeting, which follows at 7:30 pm, these matters will then be considered; the public may also attend but are not usually invited to join the debate. Alternatively, write to the Clerk such that the matter can be raised.

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Alarm Systems

Appliance Repairs.

See www.ShellTech.co.uk for more details or call

Tel: 01782 398693 Mobile: 07768 307482

Big jobs, Small jobs, Odd jobs – We do them all.



Civic Amenity Visits:

A REFUSE LORRY will be available for the collection of household items between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on these Saturdays:

Fulford Village Hall:
25th September.

Mayfield Drive, Blythe Bridge:
9th October.

Common Road, Rough Close:
23rd October

Household Recycling Centre

Stone - The recycling centre is on Beacon Road, Stone Business Park, off the A34 Stafford Road at the roundabout with the A51 Butterhill Bank Road - about 1 mile from Stone Town Centre. This centre is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Cheadle - The centre is on New Haden Road, Cheadle, off the road to Draycott, and is closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Police Contact numbers

In an emergency, where life is in danger or a crime is in progress, call **999**.

For non-emergency calls and general enquiries contact us on **0300 123 4455**.

Based at Stone Police Station are the Community Beat Officers and Police Community Support Officers for our area:



PC 3866
John Eccles



PCSO 8849
Becky Powell



PC 5550
Neil Massey



PCSO 6643
Emma
Kempson

Call Crimestoppers - Telephone 0800-555-111

The CRIMESTOPPERS telephone number can be used to pass specific information about crime or criminals without fear or reprisals or direct contact with the police. Calls are **FREE** from land lines and most mobile phones. The service is anonymous and rewards of up to £1,000 are available for information which leads to an arrest and charge.

Stafford Borough Council

Customer Contact Centre

Open 8.00 am - 5.00 pm Monday - Friday
Tel: (01785) 619000 or www.staffordbc.gov.uk

Planning queries

01785 619337 planning@staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council

General Enquiries Tel: 0300 111 8000

This is a new number replacing the former switchboard number of 01785 223121. The new phone number is charged at local rate.
www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Highways Hotline (formerly CLARENCE)

Safety Defects, such as potholes, ice, flooding and broken street lights should be reported directly to the Highways Hotline on **0300 111 8020** email to highways@staffordshire.gov.uk or on-line via **Report Faults Online**

STREETscene

ONE phone call, one solution – The special hotline means that a wide range of environmental issues, such as littering, graffiti, dog mess, sharps, fly tipping and problems with children's play areas, can all be reported with just one phone call.

You can contact the Streetscene team in the following ways:
Phone the contact centre on 01785 619000
Text in with your problem on 07781 471023
Email contactcentre@staffordbc.gov.uk