



Chairman
Cllr. Frank Colclough
01782 909582



Clerk to F.P.C.
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Parish Council News

Adventure Playground

A new Adventure Playground for young children has been installed in Grindley Park, Meir Heath, and is now in full use. There is also a Multi Sports Wall for older children adjacent to the football pitch on the top end of the park. The council is grateful to Staffordshire Environmental Fund for the grant of almost £26,000 towards the total cost (£42,500) of this project, for which we extend our sincere thanks.



There will be an official opening of the playground by the Mayor of Stafford on Wednesday 28th September at 4.00 p.m. For those who have not visited Grindley Park, it is

accessed off Grindley Lane, Meir Heath, a short distance down from the mini roundabouts.

We would like to emphasise that the playground is for the use of all the children in our area. It is less than ten minutes car ride from any part of the parish!

Flashcam Deterrent Camera for Grindley Park

The Parish Council has installed a Flashcam Deterrent Camera System on Grindley Park which will help in containing anti-social behaviour and deter any vandalism to newly installed play equipment.

Flashcam is not designed to be a hidden covert camera or monitoring device. The bright flash and loud voice warning send an unmistakable signal to vandals: they will be accountable for their actions and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated!

The system has proved successful in many parts of the country and a number of parish councils have used them in their play parks and other public areas.

Planning Review

People across Stafford are to get the chance to shape new neighbourhoods as part of future development plans for the borough. The consultation forms part of the local plan; which deals with future growth for the area over the next 20 years.

Sites for three new communities in the north, east and west of town have been identified as land near MOD Stafford, land on Tixall Road and Beaconside close to the Fire Station, and Burleyfields.

The borough council have confirmed there will be no housing sites allocated in the rural areas and there is also to be no expansion of Stone for at least ten years - and then only after developments which have already got planning consent have been delivered.

The draft local plan will be available to the public in September where you will be able to make comments online via the homepage of the council's website at www.staffordbc.gov.uk. It will also be at the Civic Centre, Riverside and local libraries where people can make comments.

At a local level, the Fulford Parish Plan was published in December 2007

(<http://www.fulford-parish-council.org/Fulford-Parish-Plan.html>) identifying six specific areas as key issues for the Parish. The actions that have been taken by the Parish Council over the last 3 years to address these issues are summarised on the centre page of this newsletter.

The Parish Council also wishes to ascertain whether there is any demand for garden allotments in the Fulford Parish. Interest should be expressed to the Parish Clerk.

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01782 396869

Cllr.
Mrs. L. McPherson
01782 397103

Cllr. Kath Brayford
01782 393157

Cllr. Ellis Bevan
01782 393140

Cllr. Shirley Wheat
01782 395133

Blythe Bridge Ward News

Stallington Lane

Although speeding is not as bad as it used to be, we are witnessing what is now referred to as “Road Rage”! This has been referred to by none other than our Fulford Vicar in the Church Magazine who has been subjected to this. As he so rightly points out, this is by drivers who are running late or are just too impatient, wanting to overtake. Overtaking in any case would be highly dangerous as children are walking to school when these incidents occur. Unless these problems are brought under control we are going to have a nasty or possibly fatal accident. Consequently the police will be monitoring the problem and take necessary action. Surely it must be better to be five minutes late in this world than five minutes early in the next. For those who need reminding, there is a 30 mph restriction.

Grindley Lane / Ridgway Drive

The estates are looking in a very good condition with litter levels very much improved, as has dog fouling.

“Safer Routes to School” is looking at double yellow lines near to schools, but funding has been cut so some of the work will not take place.

Would drivers please park sensibly outside schools and at the entrance to Sutherland Crescent; police have been informed about the dangers caused by inconsiderate parking although while schools are on holiday parking is not a problem!

Aynsley School in September will operate from the former Longton High School site in the Meir, while their building work is taking place.

Speedwatch

Again we would like to ask for volunteers for the speed watch scheme. We need at least six people to undergo training so that we can become active. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Grass Verges

Please keep the grass verges free of all obstacles so that they can be cut without damaging the contractor’s machinery.

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Cllr. Frank Colclough
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Chairman

Cllr. Tony Holmes
01782 395250

Cllr. Rob Chesworth
07709 498315

Fulford Ward News

Police information

We have experienced an increase of burglary and thefts from vehicles in the area. The common link between the majority of these incidents is that the houses, garages and vehicles have been left insecure.

Residents should make sure they check that their homes, outbuildings and vehicles are secure before leaving them or retiring for the night. Please ensure that keys, wallets and purses are not left on window shelves of homes and no valuables are on display in vehicles.

If anyone sights any suspicious vehicles or persons they should contact the police on 0300 123 4455 such that the team can develop the information.

Dog Fouling

Moss Gate has been the latest area to be spoilt and there has also been an increase in Fulford, such a pity particularly with the efforts that many residents are putting into the BKV initiatives.

Fulford Road

Parking outside the Primary School is a perennial

problem. The car park at the Village Hall is available as an alternative. A “20 is plenty” campaign and signage has been requested to the County Councillor.

Fulford Village Green

The Borough Council has still not yet responded to the proposal that the Parish take over the grass cutting. Attention by the BKV team prior to the FULFEST event showed what an improvement is possible with more frequent mowing.

Baulk Lane / Vicarage Lane

Car drivers should be aware that this is an “Access Only” road – it has been noted that drivers are using it as a through route, and at inappropriate speeds. The police should be informed of any offending vehicle such that they can take action. A request for additional signage has been made to the County Council.

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.

Autumn 2011
Issue 36

Staffordshire County Council is taking surveys from local residents and hosted an open evening on Thursday 7th July in Fulford Village Hall.

BKV

The Fulford Village Group achieved third place for Fulford in the Best Kept Village competition. The judges' feedback will be available in October – check for this on www.fulfordvillage.com. The BKV initiative is not about a competition for a pretty village; it is about a best kept village and aims to foster community spirit and bring the whole village together. For the 3rd year there was a “FULFEST” event held on the Village Green on Saturday 16th July when brass bands and local musical artists performed to a large audience

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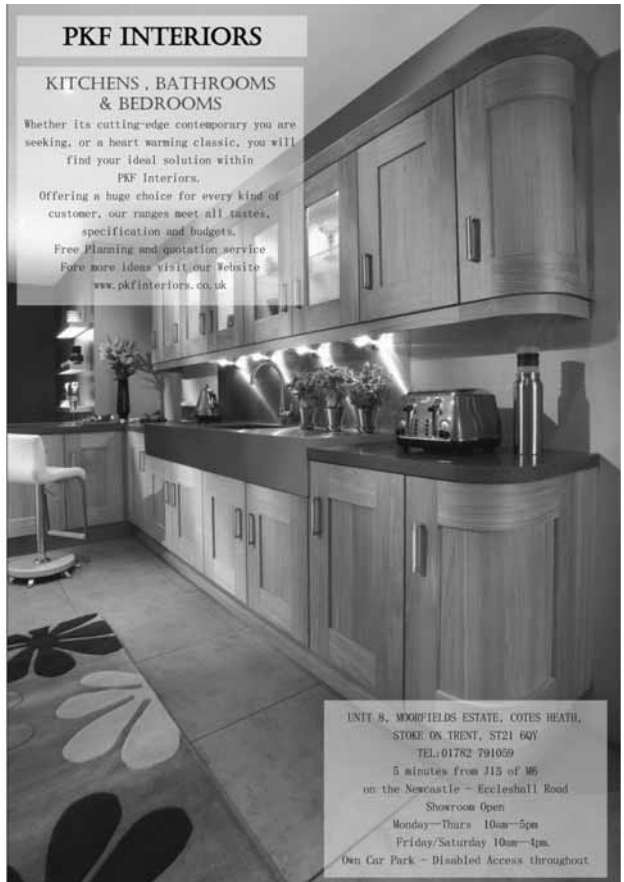
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01782 394983

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Cllr. Roy Taylor
01782 392548

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Ellerman
01782 393680

Vacancy

Meir Heath Ward News

Grindley Park Adventure Playground

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the new playground should be up and running. We hope that this playground will give many hours of fun for the kids in the area. We know only too well how such a facility has been needed and have worked very hard to bring it to you. Many thanks to all who have helped us along the way, including parents, children and the pupils from our local schools who helped with ideas and designs for the venture.

As you will have seen on our front page we are also installing a deterrent and detection device (Flashcam) on the park to counter vandalism.

The council is looking to employ someone on a part-time basis as a park attendant for Grindley Park, where the main duties will be to keep the site clean, tidy, and safe, and would include checking the play equipment for safety purposes.

Car Wash at Grindley Lane Crossroads

Matters concerning the above are in the hands of Stafford Borough Council (signage), and Staffs County Council (surface water discharge). We

will try to keep you informed of any progress in this long running saga.

Vermin

We have been informed of several sightings of rats in gardens on the estate recently. Infestations of these vermin often occur where people feed birds by spreading food on the ground. This not only affects your own garden, but also those of your neighbours! Please could you desist from ground-feeding, and use bird feeders instead. We are in favour of feeding our wild birds, but not the rats. Whilst rats may only be in gardens in warm weather, when it gets cold they could be looking for a nice indoor home to overwinter.

Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall - Website

The above organisation now has a website, which is as follows:-
www.meirheathandroughclosevillagehall.co.uk

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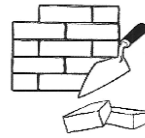


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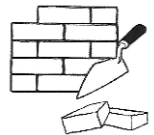
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Fulford Parish Plan – Review

Background

The Parish Plan was instigated in the spring of 2006 and was eventually published in December 2007 following the full involvement of residents in Fulford Parish. 2500 questionnaires were sent out and 900 were returned, a 36% response ranging from a 56% response rate in Fulford to 19% in Rough Close.

From the responses to the questionnaires, six specific areas were identified as key issues for the Parish. These are identified below along with action that has been taken by the Parish Council over the last 3 years to address the issues. It is recognised that in some areas further work can be done to try and ensure that all the priorities are acted upon and these are also shown below.

Topic	Issue	Action taken to date	Further Action Proposed
Council Matters	49% don't know their local councillor	Details of all councillors on website and in Newsletter	Provide pen picture of councillors in Newsletter
	35% know how parish council money is spent	Annual accounts published on website Accounts available for viewing in Parish Office	Include additional information in the Newsletter Make use of local press
	31% happy with way money is spent		More publicity for annual Parish meeting to encourage more people to attend
Public Transport	Current service inadequate – poor routes & timetable		Promote Community Link
	Reliance on cars for day to day activities		
Traffic	Need for traffic regulation – speed reduction	Mobile SIDs on Grindley Lane & Hilderstone Road	Continue to press County Council for traffic calming measures near schools
Environmental issues	Too much litter	1.Litter picker employed by the Parish Council (6 hours a week) 2.Clean up days arranged in Fulford & Rough Close 3.Additional litter bins have been provided when requested 4.School children have been involved in litter poster competitions 5. Stafford & Rural Homes undertake occasional estate walkabouts in Blythe Bridge	Arrange further campaigns with the local schools. Consider increasing litter picker's hours
	Poorly maintained roadside verges	Parish Council have taken over responsibility for cutting grass verges across parts of the parish and are now providing 50% more cuts of verges	Try and persuade residents to help keep grass verges tidy
	Dog fouling	1.No. of dog litter bins have been increased 2.Consistent messages in newsletter 3. Free dog waste bags	Work with local schools to help with a new campaign Encourage prosecution when appropriate Look to see if outlets for

		available from newsagent & convenience store in Meir Heath	bags can be found in other locations Explore the possibility of providing bag dispensers in suitable locations
	Poor signage on footpaths	Considerable work undertaken in conjunction with CC to improve footpaths including new kissing gates	Ensure opportunities are taken to bid for resources from the County Council to improve paths Work with local walking/rambling clubs to ensure paths are kept in good order Provide links on website
	Lack of recycling facilities	1. Waste lorry available 3 times a year at 3 separate locations in the Parish 2. additional bins are now available to residents 3. Recycling centres at Cheadle & Stone	
Local facilities	More activities in village halls	Fulford village hall provides a wide range of activities, including a youth group	
	Lack of sports facilities	New play area planned for Grindley Park (summer 2011) Kick about areas available in Fulford and Meir Heath	Make use of any Section 106 money that is available
Public Services	Promotion of village website	Most parish council events/information available on the website	Provide links to other useful websites Consider producing a directory of local groups and activities.
	Lack of higher education		Provide links to activities such as University of the 3 rd Age

Next Steps

We want to hear what you think. The Parish Plan was completed 4 years ago and things change therefore we would like to know:

1. Are the above priorities still appropriate to Fulford Parish?
2. Are there any new issues that you feel the Parish council should be addressing?
3. Considering the priorities identified above do you think there are any other actions the Parish Council could take to help delivery?
4. What do you consider to be the main areas on which the Parish Council's resources should be used?

Please send your comments to the Parish Clerk, 10 Hillside Close, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9RU or email fulfordparishplan@btconnect.com



Cllr.
Andrew Lovatt

Cllr. Joy Bennett
01782 398345

Cllr. Mrs. Wendy
Jennings
01782 398784

Rough Close Ward News

After concerns were raised by parishioners about the speed and behaviour of drivers on Windmill Hill and around the village generally a “Road Safety” day was conducted by our local police officer recently. Our local PC and our two PCSOs in conjunction with Staffordshire Safety Partnership will now be dedicating some of their time on a regular basis to dealing with the problem of drivers speeding and bad driving. It is hoped that the roads around our village will remain safe for us all. Although we have previously made requests for volunteers to come forward to be trained for Community Speed Watch, no one from our ward has come forward – we have to have a minimum number of six volunteers for the training to take place. Please consider whether you would be willing to give up some time to help your community to be part of this initiative.

The cattle have had another successful season on Barlaston Common with reports from SBC’s biodiversity officer that they are achieving their objectives with wild heather reappearing. The bracken remains a problem and plans are being made to treat that next year. It is hoped that a working party can be arranged in early October to prune/fell self set saplings on the Common to open up the areas under the trees to encourage the cattle to graze there – please see the Parish Notice Boards (on Windmill Hill and outside

Martins newsagent) in September for more details.

It has come to the attention of your Parish Council that we have an historic well on the Common. Initial surveys have been made by Parish and Borough councillors who would very much like to bring this piece of local history back to life. The process, if found to be financially viable, would obviously take some time. However a working group has been set up to look into the project and if any parishioner has any information about the well or any expertise they think relevant please get in touch with either the Parish Clerk or one of your councillors. We will, of course, be keeping you updated on this subject.

We are very pleased to report that dog fouling in the village is reducing. Responsible dog owners are helping to keep the village clean and a pleasure to walk around. Sadly the same cannot be said with regard to littering. The common and pond are areas of natural beauty enjoyed by many from within our community and from further afield. Unfortunately these areas are now suffering from the actions of a few. Please, please take your litter home with you or use waste bins where they are provided. We live in a lovely village. Let us all help to keep it that way.

The water leak on Windmill Hill has been investigated by SCC Highways department and determined to not be their responsibility. The complaint was passed to STW on 7th June 2011 (Reference number 2000253854) but despite chasing them, the suspected leak still remains. If any member of the public wishes to add weight to our complaint about this water, please feel free to contact STW quoting the above reference number.

Finally, we are extremely happy to be able to say that the long awaited play area on Grindley Park is now a reality. We hope that the children of the whole parish enjoy it for many years to come.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Over 20,000 apply for Young Person's Travel Card

The Young Person's Travel Card lets young people travel anywhere within Staffordshire (including in and out of Stoke) by bus for just £1 per journey throughout the day.



Over 20,000 cards have already been issued. If you are eligible or know someone who might be, please suggest they take advantage of this scheme too. Apply on line or at the library.

Quarry News – Staffordshire to decide for itself

Staffordshire County Council is now deciding its own mineral planning policy instead of being dictated to by regional bodies that have in the past insisted that around 70% of sand and gravel comes from Staffordshire. We have resisted this and advised Whitehall government that Staffordshire will decide for itself how to control this.

It means that although land-owners can still apply to extract minerals it will not be so easy as we will decide if such additional extraction is necessary and our belief is that existing quarries can supply most of the requirements, without the need for additional sites.

This is really good news because we can decide what is in our best interest rather than being forced to provide minerals by a regional plan.

Jobs coming soon

The old Creda site now called Hadleigh Business Park is the focus of much attention as its new owners supported by the County and Borough councils work to develop the site, attract extra investment and bring new jobs to the area.

We have had several meetings at the site as we want to ensure that any development is not intrusive or unreasonable. We also want to ensure that the leisure facilities and green landscaping is retained. Negotiations continue, but let's hope that the site can once again be an important part of the community and bring fresh employment to the area.

Faster Broadband

Staffordshire County Council is investing £7.5million following a successful bid from a new national fund. The investment aims to support the building of new broadband infrastructure as we work towards our objective of ensuring that every home and business has access to 40mb broadband. This will be a great boost to Staffordshire's economy, supporting rural businesses and giving communities an opportunity to use high speed services.

Congratulations to BBHS students

Well done to students at Blythe Bridge High School for excellent GCSE and A-Level results. I am told that 18 students passed all of their exams with grades at A* or A, and over 90% of students gained 5 A-C grades. Lots of students also did really well in their A-Levels and other qualifications that will lead them into college and university places or into the workplace.

The high school is doing exceptionally well and it's a really valued part of the community, so congratulations must go to students, staff and Headteacher Mrs Schanda.

Local community fund

If you are involved in a community group or project that could use a small grant to buy new equipment, run an event or replace or repair facilities then please get in touch.

The County Council's Local Community Fund is a simple and quick way to gain a grant from a little as £50 to several thousand.

Please contact me if you have a project or an idea. Ian.parry@staffordshire.gov.uk
Or apply on-line
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/slcf/home.aspx

Also there is a section on the County Council web site that provides information on other sources of funding for community groups.

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/slcf/otherfunding/externalfunding.aspx

Bulletin Board

Delivering Key Information Quickly

EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY (EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS), the Clerk of the Parish Council will be present at the annexe to the MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL, GRANGE ROAD, MEIR HEATH between **9.30AM** and **12.30PM** to discuss any problems or issues which the Parish Council may be able to help with. The contact telephone number is 01782 385187 where you can also leave a message.

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 announced that from **13 September 2010** they have expanded the amount of recyclables to also include waxed cartons (e.g. Tetrapack), foil, aerosols, empty plastic bags and cellophane.

No longer must textiles be put in the blue bin as it has been found that textiles have become

contaminated with broken glass etc., which means that they cannot be re-used.

Meir Heath Windmill Preservation Group

The group continues to raise money for the Windmill Project. At the moment an application has been sent to the Coalfield Regeneration Group for a grant to do the lime slurry render, French drain, and aluminium guttering.

In July the group received £1,000 from the Ratcliffe Fund and in August £1,500 from the Hobson Trust.

October 22nd the Bill Durose Band is at the Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall. Tickets are priced at £4.50 each.

November.... Fish and Chip supper. Date and venue to be decided.

Any donations or information would be gratefully received by the Project Manager Gill Swift (01782 317521).

Stafford County Council gave the group a grant of £912 to be used for items inside the windmill. Councillor I Parry supported the appeal and the MHWPG are very grateful to him for his help.

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Mrs. Jennings, Taylor & Mrs. Wheat
Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Planning Committee

Cllrs. Mrs. Brayford, Ms. Ellerman, Holmes,
Mrs. McPherson, Mycock,
Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Representatives to Outside Bodies

Fulford Primary LEA Governor:
Frank Colclough

Meir Heath Primary School:
Cllr. Mrs. Jennings

Aynsley Special School Governors
Cllrs. Bevan & Mrs. Brayford

Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall:
Cllr. Mrs. Jennings

Fulford Village Hall:
Cllr. Tony Holmes

Springcroft Primary School LEA Governor:
Cllr. Kath Brayford, Cllr. Richard Mycock
Cllr. Linda McPherson

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association:
Cllrs. Mrs. Brayford, Chesworth, Holmes
and Mrs. McPherson

Sustainable Committee:

Cllrs. Chesworth & Ms. Ellerman

Staffordshire County Council -

Stone Rural Councillor:

Ian Parry 01782 398338

Stafford Borough Council -

Fulford Ward Councillors:

Michael Dodson 01782 399855

Tony Holmes 01782 395250

Peter Roycroft 01889 505240

Dates for 2011

Parish Council Meetings

Thursday 12th October

Location:
Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall

Thursday 9th November

Location: Fulford Village Hall

Thursday 14th 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

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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 09.00 - 11.00

Fulford Village Hall Car Park -
24 September.

Mayfield Drive Blythe Bridge -
01 October

Common Lane Rough Close -
08 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 5506 David Perry, PC 4884 Gareth Hilditch, PCSO 8849 Becky Powell and PCSO 6643 Emma Kempson.

Call Crimestoppers - Tel 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 8.30 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