



DELIVERING FOR THE ECCLESHALL AREA

This newsletter has been going since December 2015, and usually it focuses on topical news and stories of what I have been doing as the elected representative on Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councils. It covers stories supporting individuals to those that benefit wider communities. It picks up immediate concerns as well as those built up over many years, that I have tried to have a positive impact on and resolve.

As the economy starts to re-open in full and there is some return to life pre-COVID 19, many of us are keen to get the Staffordshire economy fully working again—encouraging inward investment, bringing new jobs and better jobs to the area, alongside the industries of the future. Ensuring we have the right qualified young people to benefit from this investment is crucial as is having the brightest and the best workforce possible through apprenticeships, further and higher education and creating life skills through life long learning. Employers also want to know that this area is a great place to live, work and thrive.

The Walking of The Staffordshire Way certainly demonstrates that Staffordshire is a great place to live and thrive. And the Eccleshall area—from Marston Grange to Adbaston and Trentham to Cranberry and all areas in-between—typify this.

Borough and County Councillor Jeremy Pert

This edition covers :

- Significant investment coming into Stafford Borough across education, and wider infrastructure
- Getting the economy and general life back moving post-pandemic
- Supporting the voluntary sector locally
- Investments in building our communities across the local area

Significant Investment coming into the Borough

For Stafford Borough to be a place where employers want to be based we need to be able to demonstrate that the area is a great place to live, work and thrive.

Whether that be the successful refurbishment of Victoria Park in Stafford which has had £2.5m invested to create various new areas to encourage more regular and wider use, as one of the key gateways to Stafford as people come off the train and into the county town.



Victoria Park—the gateway to the County Town—transformed with help from Heritage Lottery funding

Or the continued investment in destination play areas, like the one at Holmcroft Park in Stafford, that has seen the Park transformed at a cost of £435,000.



Holmcroft Park opened in July 2021 following significant investment in facilities

Other investments to come include the £1.6m being invested into Shire Hall to bring it back into full time use and £3.96m going to the William Salt Library to create a new Records Office and visitor centre for Staffordshire.

The nature of retail has fundamentally changed—in fairness long before COVID, but with COVID exasperating the move from physical locations to online. With this shift, Stafford town centre needs to reflect the future of High Streets, and the £19.7m funding to transform the high street will help kick start that work.



Investment in education and training is also happening with the £21m project to create a modern campus in Stafford following the demolition of the tired Earl Street and Broad Street buildings.



When all of this is taken together with the Western Access Road, in excess of £115m is being spent in the County town to make it an attractive place to live work and thrive.

Stone Road drainage scheme delivered and working

Longstanding flooding issues have been addressed—and fingers crossed — resolved

Stone Road in Eccleshall has been a longstanding area that flooded in periods of heavy and continuous rain for much of the last five years.

Much debate had been held as to the cause, but without investment the problem looked only set to get worse, with the continued impacts of global warming and the lack of investment in local infrastructure.

Therefore the agreement by Staffordshire County Council to invest £250,000 into a flood alleviation scheme, as one of only five delivered County-wide this year was really welcomed.

The works started in April 2021 and finished in early May 2021 and despite some periods of heavy and continuous rain subsequently it looks like the works have been a success, although it is noticeable that other parties now seem to be tapping into the new drainage system, which seems to undermine the capacity modelling undertaken.

That still leaves a number of other places within the area that need flood prevention work and individual plans are being worked on for each of those areas across a variety of agencies, to try and prevent the sheer scale of problems seen in recent years.

Flooding on the Stone Road in Eccleshall earlier in the year



Speed Limit Changes to A34 by Redhills, Stafford

With increased development and traffic, road speeds and road safety is regularly reviewed

Speed limit changes round the Redhill A34 roundabout with Stone Road, Hurricane Way and Marston Grange are coming into place to help improve the safety of the whole area for the benefit of all road users.

And it is hoped that a slower steadier speed in

that area will help improve the flow of traffic overall.

With the level of development and volume of traffic now using those junctions, the proposed changes coming into effect later in the year, should make a positive difference.

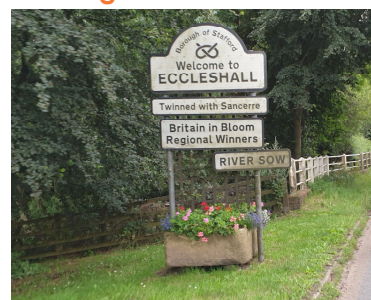
Problem highway resurfaced in Eccleshall

Residents concerns target highways investment to reduce road noise and general deterioration

The Newcastle Road and Newport Road in Eccleshall had been the source of many complaints from householders and road users for a number of years. So the decision last year by the County Council to apply a new road treatment as part of a resurfacing project planned for 2021 was welcome news.

However a spell of unseasonally wet weather during the Summer meant that the planned works were in jeopardy for 2021, so the County's contractor rostered in new teams from across the country to ensure that the majority of schemes could be delivered as planned, before the change of seasons.

Works started in Eccleshall at the end of August and traffic congestion was kept to a minimum, despite the near six weeks delay to the originally planned works. It is hoped that the new surface will last another ten to fifteen years, so that backlogs elsewhere can be picked up in the meantime.



Consistent concerns had been raised about the quality of the road surface and road noise through Eccleshall over a number of years

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Senior Minister sees strength of Staffordshire first hand

Home Office to move 550 jobs to Stoke on Trent as part of levelling up agenda

At the end of July, the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP, visited Stafford and met with a range of business and community leaders.

At this meeting, the Home Secretary amongst other things touched on the commitment to move 550 Home Office staff from Whitehall to Stoke on Trent, which follows a similar move from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to co-locate the Ministry in Wolverhampton and London.

The Home Secretary is familiar with the local area having studied at Keele University but was able to see first hand some of the continued significant inward investment happening in the County Town by a wide range of partners, from local Councils through to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the College (Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group) and businesses, over a number of years, and the connectivity that Stafford Borough offers within the wider area.

It is not often that Westminster ventures out of the South, so the visit was beneficial putting Stafford firmly 'on the map'.



The Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon Priti Patel MP, on a recent visit to Stafford Borough

Walleys Quarry impacts 'detrimental to long term health'

Public Health England's change to their guidance about the health impacts draws wider concerns

Walley's Quarry in Silverdale, Newcastle under Lyme has been a landfill site since 2007 but in the last eighteen months the level of hydrogen sulphide coming from the site has significantly affected residents living in the local area.



Walleys Quarry in Silverdale has been the source of hydrogen sulphide emissions for the last eighteen months, which has the risk of affecting residents long term health

This slow moving, dense gas commonly associated with a rotting eggs smell has been causing sleeplessness, nausea, severe headaches and eye, nose and throat irritation for residents within at least a three mile radius.

Air quality monitoring undertaken locally continues to indicate that concentrations of hydrogen sulphide emissions remain

"consistently above the World Health Organisation's permitted annoyance, or nuisance, levels", which has led to Public Health England changing their guidance about the impact to long term health.

When this issue came in front of the County Council's statutory health and care committee at the end of July at a special sitting in Newcastle, the committee agreed to take a range of actions including better data monitoring and data sharing between partners, writing to the Prime Minister to ask that he intervene personally to resolve the problem faster and writing to various government Ministers to recommend changes to legislation to ensure a faster, more local response when issues first arise.

The committee session is available to watch back in full on the Council's website.



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Stafford Borough Community Awards

Recognise those unsung Heroes by nominating them for a Community Award

In the last year more than most others in living memory, there have been so many challenges and changes, with many people coming to aid the rallying cry to ensure that support was available to everyone in our communities and to make sure no one individual was left behind. Whether that was as part of help during lockdowns, running the mass vaccination programmes or just trying to ensure that everyday life was able to continue.



This year is the fifth time the Borough has asked for nominations to recognise those individuals and groups who have done so much in the last year to enhance the quality of people's lives locally

So what better way of recognising these, often unsung heroes, than by **nominating them for a Stafford Borough Community Award**.

There are five categories this year :-

- Local Hero
- Community Action
- Environmental Improvement
- Sport & Leisure
- Social Wellbeing

The awards are open to individuals, groups, schools and businesses.

The deadline for nominations to be received is Monday 20th September 2021, with the awards evening reverting back to being in person on Thursday 25th November 2021, where it will be possible to celebrate with all those nominated and indeed those successful on the night.

Each year the awards are a great celebration of Stafford's rich and varied voluntary sector and a great way for individuals to show their appreciation of what brilliant work is achieved within our communities and how much these endeavours add to our every day lives.

Further details can be found from the following link : www.staffordbc.gov.uk/communityawards

Community Grants to support the Recovery Post COVID

Stafford Borough continues to support the voluntary sector in a post COVID world with grants

Stafford Borough Council supports the voluntary sector within the area with up to £132,000 of funding annually.

This takes the form of

- support to the voluntary sector umbrella organisations—like Support Staffordshire—who offer advice, information and guidance to individual groups
- support to individual groups working on specific issues of concern like domestic violence
- support through targeted grants.

There are two grant application windows each

year, with the last one for 2021 closing on Tuesday 28th September 2021. Applications are managed by the Community Foundation for Staffordshire.



Each year up to £10,000 is given to local groups to increase capacity or to help the group to become sustainable. Greater details are available on the Foundation's website with applications via an easy to use form at www.staffordshire.foundation/grants/sbcsmallgrants/#1582104547664-34b0fc87-2f29

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Supporting Stafford's Voluntary Sector

Back in 2018 I was involved in the launch of a new charity, called Stafford Together, which was set up to support Stafford's voluntary sector by creating an endowment fund which could use its capital growth to give out grants for the voluntary sector.



Over the first year before lockdown, in excess of £60,000 was raised, which allowed the first round of grants to be given out during 2020—a year when the demand on the voluntary sector's services was unprecedented and when their ability to raise funds themselves was also significantly curtailed.

A further round of grants has been undertaken in 2021.

In a drive to add to available funds, Stafford's previous Member of Parliament, Jeremy Lefroy,

the leader of the Borough Council, Patrick Farrington, and myself started out to walk the 92 miles of The Staffordshire Way, from Mow Cop in the north to Kinver Edge in the South, as part of a sponsored walk.

During August, we've completed 77 miles over six days, with eleven other people joining us at various points along the way with £1,850 raised so far towards the £5,000 target.

Walking The Staffordshire Way over 8 days with friends as a sponsored walk—donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/staffordshireway21



If people want to join us the last two days are on Sunday 26th September 2021 and Saturday 2nd October 2021- or **donations can be made through the JustGiving website** by clicking this link www.justgiving.com/fundraising/staffordshireway21



Walking Webinar Creates Unique Partnership with Nextdoor

Promoting the physical and mental health benefits of getting out

Back in July, the boss of local social media platform, Nextdoor, joined a webinar to promote the benefits of walking and encouraged people to plot their local walks on the platform so that other people could follow their favourite walks. Another suggestion was to let local people know when they planned to take a specific walk, should others want to join.

Nextdoor is a hyper-local social media platform, akin to a community-focused version of Facebook. And their European Head of Partnerships, in what was a world-first, joined the webinar to promote the mental and physical health benefits of walking—as part of a direct

attempt to get more people active post-lockdown.



Partnering with hyper-local social media platform, Nextdoor, in what was a world first to encourage people to be more active

Using Nextdoor to share ideas and invite other people to join walking groups may have been just that spur to get people back out and active or just to build their self-confidence about going back out again post-lockdown. The webinar can be **watched back here**.



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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 ten 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 Chair of the Staffordshire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the 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

Parish Council digs deep in Great Bridgeford

Parish Councillors working hard to improve facilities for their residents

Seighford Parish Council has been on a mission for the past eight years to improve the range of play areas and equipment on existing areas within their Parish, amongst other things.

The latest area to benefit from their hard work and commitment has been Great Bridgeford, with the addition of a zip line and multi activity outdoor play station, which provides a wider range of activities for young people to use and keeps them active longer.

The whole project was supported by a grant of more than £20,000, from the National Lottery, which made the whole project possible. But without the creative input from the Parish Council to come up with the initial concept and then secure budget estimates for the work and persuade grant funders to support the initiative, this just would not have been possible.

The new additional equipment was officially opened on 25th July 2021 by



The opening of the enlarged Great Bridgeford play area with Seighford Parish Council Chair, Councillor David Price and Revd. Doug Heming, Vicar of Seighford

Reverend Doug Heming, the Vicar of Seighford, and follows significant commitment from the Parish Council, not least its chair, Councillor David Price.

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.

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