



Eccleshall PARISH COUNCIL

USEFUL CONTACTS

HIGHWAYS

Street lights, pot holes, standing water, footpaths issues and many highway matters can be reported online:-

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit

It is important that residents report issues so that it is logged with an enquiry number and assigned to an County Council officer for inspection and assessment.

General enquiries can be directed to:

highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

The Customer Service Centre can help with issues in logging new reports and providing advice and guidance.

RIGHTS OF WAY

There is a reporting system for issues with the public rights of way, which can be found at:

<https://prow.staffordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>

BOROUGH COUNCIL

To report problems associated with grass cutting, play areas, fly tipping, street sweeping and name plates:

Street Scene - 01785 619401

Recycling collection - 01785 619402

email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk

Report online at: <https://>

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/streetscene-service-online-forms

Dogs - dog fouling and stray dogs:
01785 619000

Email: dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk

REFUSE LORRY

The Civic refuse lorry service is still not available due to staff shortages at the Borough Council.

HIGH STREET NOTICE BOARD

If you have flyers for any community events that you wish to be posted up on the Parish Council noticeboard in High Street, there is a tray located in I.Tech in Stafford Street where notices can be left or alternatively send a copy to Councillor Peter Jones who will print it and display it on the notice board.

SUSPECT A CRIME?

Report any suspicious activity you witness to the **police on 101** at the time of the incident. Please obtain as much information as you can, i.e. description of person involved, vehicle registration, make and model. There is also the option to report a crime via Facebook and Twitter, by sending a direct message. Messages will be logged in the same way as a 101 call, and the service is manned from 7am until midnight.

Please still call 999 if it is an emergency and an urgent response is needed.



Winter Newsletter 2021

www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



TOWN WARD

Mrs Eileen Amos
6, St. Chad's Road, Eccleshall, ST21 6AH
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Mr Peter Jones (Chairman)
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01785 851381
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Mrs Joy Jones
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Mr Gordon Dale
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01785 850124
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Mrs Libby Dale (Vice -Chairman)
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Mrs Ros Taylor
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Mr Ant Reid
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VACANCY

CROXTON WARD

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Mrs Ros Langford
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Mr Stuart Mifflin
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HORSLEY WARD

Mr Stuart Perren
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Mr Chris Wilkins
Eford Rise, Shaw's lane, Eccleshall, ST21 6JB
851429
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Mr Steve Kean
Countryside, Cash lane, Garmelow, ST21 6HN
01785 284450
steve.kean@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

SLINDON WARD

Mr John Leather
Ankerton House, Eccleshall, ST21 6LZ
01785 850888
john.leather@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

County Councillor

Mr Jeremy Pert
Bank Farm, Croxton, ST21 6PE
07740 924659
jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

Borough Councillors

Mr Peter Jones (details as opposite)
Mr Jeremy Pert (details as above)

Clerk to the Council

Mrs Stacey Worden
16, Newport Road, Great Bridgeford
Stafford, ST18 9PR

01785 282296
eccleshallpc@gmail.com

Assistant Clerk to the Council

Mrs Beverley Partridge
07760 896052
assistantclerk@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



CELEBRATIONS IN ECCLESHALL PARISH



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is a wonderful milestone to be celebrated. Eccleshall Parish Council are sponsoring events and encouraging community activities so that all Parish residents can celebrate in style.

This four day celebration takes place on Thursday, 2 June to Sunday, 5 June 2022. The 2 and 3 of June are Bank Holidays so that everyone can take part and enjoy as many events and activities as possible on each of these four days.

Thursday, 2 June will be especially poignant as thousands of beacons will be lit at 9.15pm all across Great Britain and the Commonwealth. There will be a beacon in Eccleshall, and hopefully a Piper, representing the solemnity of this very special occasion.

Amongst the events and activities we are hoping will be organised are: Afternoon Teas in Eccleshall and in Croxton, Live Music during the evening in local pubs, a Celebration Dance featuring a 'Last Night of the Proms' finale, a Treasure Hunt and Barbeque, Thanksgiving Service, Children's Art Competition, Eccleshall by the Sea and Commonwealth Games for all the family, a Classic Vehicle Cavalcade along the High Street, a Street Party, a 'Dinner Fit for a Queen' featuring the Queen's favourite dishes, a Platinum Jubilee Quiz and much more.

These four days really will give everyone the opportunity to celebrate and meet other people in the community.

The Parish Council will co-ordinate all the events and activities and produce a booklet that will be delivered to every household in the Parish so that no one will be left out.

There is still plenty of time to come up with your own ideas for an event or activity. If your organisation, club or business has a suggestion for an event or activity please do get in touch. We will do our best to help if we can. Please contact:

Councillor Ros Taylor at ros.taylor@eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk
or the Clerk to the Council at eccleshallpc@gmail.com

Our thanks to Roger Clark for the photograph
on the front cover.

(continued from overleaf)

Animals crossing?



Residents have raised concerns about increased wildlife casualties on the roads. In 2019, a new traffic sign depicting a hedgehog was unveiled by the Department of Transport. The sign warns road users of hazards due to animals in the road ahead and as well as reducing accidents, aims to reverse the decline in wildlife numbers, in particular hedgehogs, whose population in rural areas has halved since 2000.

Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-road-sign-to-improve-road-safety-and-protect-animals>

The signs can be placed in areas where there is a correlation to high accident rates. Whilst accident data is held by the County Council (who has the authority to place these signs), local information on key hotspots for wildlife casualties helps to provide evidence of need to the County Council. Do you know of any areas that might be considered? Residents are also allowed to install their own warning signs within their property boundary, which are available from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW)



Eccleshall's speed watch group have been operating for about 4 years and continue to monitor the traffic along all the major roads in and out of the town.

Sadly, they continue to record some startling speeds within the 30mph zones, the highest being 74mph. It is only a small number of drivers who go too fast and now that we have the speed indicators located around the town it's not difficult to monitor your own speed.

For a long time, many people have been expressing their concerns about speeding traffic through the town at certain times of the day, especially during the school runs. Gaol Butts is a prime example during the mornings and afternoons. The police have been stepping up their presence in monitoring traffic speeds around Eccleshall, especially the Stafford Rd, Newport Rd and Chester Rd.

The school bus has been diverted to pick up and drop off in Gaol Butts instead of Newport Rd because of concerns for safety of the children congregating on a major road.

The objective of speed watch groups nationally is not to punish drivers but to educate them to drive more responsibly within our built-up areas and adhere to the speed limits.

Groups are all volunteers prepared to give up an hour a week of their time.

If anyone has an hour to spare and would like to assist the local group in their endeavors then please contact Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership on 01785 232702 or email community.speedwatch@staffordhire.pnn.police.uk for further information.

HOW ECCLESHALL CELEBRATES THE FESTIVE SEASON

CHRISTMAS TREES

As usual the town is decorated with Christmas trees and lights throughout December. The trees and lights were erected by Ecclian Society members and friends on Sunday 28th November. The 25 foot trees in the Holy Trinity churchyard and at the crossroads are erected by Woods Farm.



The Parish Council wishes to thank the Ecclian Society who erected the 70 small Christmas Trees in the town and checked the brackets, Woods Christmas Tree Farm at Solihull for supplying and delivering all the trees, A.S. Electrical Services for installing the lights on the large trees and Traction Equipment for the loan of a cherry picker.

The decorations on the crossroads tree were made once again by the children at the Bishop Lonsdale Academy

[The trees are funded by the Eccleshall Parish Council.](#)

CROSS ROAD CAROLS

The large tree at the crossroads, adorned with baubles decorated by the children from Bishop Lonsdale School, was switched on to the accompaniment of carol singers on Sunday 28th November.



Carols around the Christmas Tree

Carollers should meet at the crossroads on **Monday 20th December at 7pm** armed with lights and warm clothing ready for a parade singing carols along the High Street.

Finishing at the lych gate for a final burst of singing, followed by mulled wine in the Holy Trinity Church provided by the Ecclian Society.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Santa on the Eccleshall Rotary Club's sleigh was at the lych gate at Holy Trinity on Sunday 28th November listening to the children's wishes for presents and giving out chocolate.

SANTA'S EGGLESHALL TOUR

Santa on the Eccleshall Rotary Sleigh will be touring the town during December pausing at certain spots. The dates are Thursday 16th, Saturday 18th, Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd December.

There will not be a door to door collection this year so listen out for the music so that you don't miss him.

See noticeboard posters for further information.

The expected routes are:

Thursday 16th:

Southwell Estate top end 5.50pm – 6.25pm

Langton Park 6.30pm – 7.10pm

Overton Play Area 7.15pm – 8pm

Saturday 18th:

Little George Car Park 5.50pm – 6.25pm

The Burgage 6.30pm – 7.10pm

Badgers Croft/Court 7.15pm – 8pm

Tuesday 21st:

Bishops Court top end 5.50pm – 6.25pm

Sancerre Grange Play Area 6.30pm – 7.10pm

Linacre Road (middle) 7.15pm – 8pm

Thursday 23rd:

Campion Close 5.50pm – 6.25pm

Community Centre/Gaol Butts 6.30pm – 7.10pm

The Crescent 7.15pm – 8pm



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)

Unfortunately scam telephone calls and emails continue to plague our lives so we can only do our best to warn people not to divulge any personal information to someone you don't know however convincing they sound.



Criminal activity in our area has been relatively low, however, there have been some bike thefts and vehicles damaged. Also there have been reports of kids throwing eggs at houses in the area. Anyone with CCTV footage should contact the police asap.

A Slower Eccleshall? – have your say

The Parish Council has been contacted about 3 road safety campaigns, all aimed at reducing speed and improving safety – and this applies to wildlife as well as us.

We would love to hear your thoughts about the campaigns – do you think they would be effective? Do you know of an area that would benefit from one of these approaches? Which ones, if any, would you like us to promote, evaluate and lobby for? Please email the Council at eccleshallpc@gmail.com with your thoughts and this will be discussed by our traffic management committee. Often with road signage, Highways require clear evidence of need and community support, so this all helps.



Kids at Play

Do younger children often play in your street? This is great – it is sociable, promotes independence, but can often be a worry if traffic is too fast. If you think your street would benefit from a kids at play sign, let us know. The signs are likely to be best suited for cul-de-sacs rather than through roads.



20s Plenty for Staffordshire is a campaign group formed in January 2021, one of around 500 branches of 20s Plenty for Us, the National Campaign for 20mph limits.

The group are lobbying Staffordshire County Council for further speed reductions in 30mph zones, and is asking the Parish Council to 'support an approach of default 20 mph speed limits in existing 30 mph areas where people live, work, shop, play or learn subject to appropriate exceptions and where this has community support'. The group is highlighting safety and environmental benefits of these zones, but it is noted that changing speed limits will incur costs.

Want to find out more? Go to <https://www.20splenty.org/> and let us know your thoughts.

(continued overleaf)

BROUGHTON W.I. CENTENARY BENCH



Broughton WI began in February 1921, and members have been marking the Centenary in various ways, including the commissioning of a beautiful oak bench from local craftsman Jack Keysor.

The bench has been installed alongside Boughey's Well in Croxton and has had cowslips and wild flower seeds planted around it. Broughton WI hope the bench will be well used by local walkers and passing cyclists in this beautiful part of the Woodland Quarter of Eccleshall Parish.

Grime Watch

If you know of fly tipping in your area you can report it by calling

01785 619402.

Or email the Borough Council at grimewatch@staffordbc.gov.uk

All information will be treated in confidence.

Eccleshall Parish Council is on Facebook

For updates on meetings, community events, Parish projects, refuse lorry collection dates, upcoming consultations and much more, like us at: www.facebook.com/EccleshallPC

Eccleshall Guide

The Eccleshall Guide is online for all your information about Eccleshall. Guide information can be found at: www.eccleshallguide.org
The 2022 printed edition of the Guide is due out in January 2022

In addition to the full Parish Council there are six main committees, Planning, Enhancements, Policy & Resources, Traffic Management, Footpaths and Events. There are also two smaller committees which meet as and when they are needed, the Staffing Committee and the Newsletter team.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee meets every two weeks to consider planning applications in the parish supplied by the Stafford Borough Council. The committee is chaired by Bryan Delanchy and submits its views to the Stafford Borough Council Planning Department.

ENHANCEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Enhancements Committees meets as and when it is required and is chaired by Libby Dale. The committee has a wide remit and is concerned with the appearance of the parish and the delivery of any project that aims to enhance the local area. The committee is also responsible for surveying Council assets and ensuring they are up to a suitable standard. This includes all of the council's benches and noticeboards.

POLICY & RESOURCES

As the name suggests the committee consider all matters financial and policy oriented and makes recommendations to the full council, including the budget. The committee is traditionally chaired by the chairman of the council, currently Peter Jones.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

All things to do with roads and pavements in the parish, including transport, parking, speeding etc. The committee is chaired by Libby Dale.

FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE

There are over 130 public footpaths in the parish that are the responsibility of the Staffordshire County Council. Unfortunately the Rights of Way department at the County do not have the resources to maintain them all to a good standard. Chaired by Ros Taylor, the committee aims to provide support in the maintenance with the help of a local footpaths operative, supported by footpath marshals who allocated paths and report issues as they see them.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Newly formed in May 2021, this committee will be responsible for the planning and delivery of all Parish led events, including the upcoming Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Interested in local affairs?

Why not sit in on a Parish Council meeting and see what goes on?

The Council meets monthly, usually on the third Wednesday evening of the month, in one of the local halls.

The Council is currently advertising for a councillor to represent the Town Ward.

Are you interested? To find out more, go to our website at <https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk/council-information/vacancies/>

The council is non-political.

Contact our Parish Clerk, Stacey Worden, for an application form and further information

Contact Us

Each area of the parish is represented by one or more councillors who would like to hear your views.

The Clerk can be contacted at Eccleshallpc@gmail.com or by telephone on 01785 282296.

* The Parish Council wishes to express *
* it's thanks to the people of Eccleshall *
* for the Remembrance poppy display. *
* Local businesses, organisations and *
* individuals all worked together to *
* arrange a striking display to be proud *
* of. The remembrance *
* silhouettes were *
* provided by the Parish *
* Council. *



£ PARISH GRANTS £

Each year the Parish Council receives applications for financial support in the way of grants to support their club or organisation.

In the past we have supported sports clubs, social clubs, churches and new groups starting out. This year so far the Council has provided a grant to Eccleshall First Responders, to support the fantastic service they deliver to the local community.

The council can only consider applications from organisations within the parish.

Applications should be made to the Parish Clerk Mrs Stacey Worden. The application is available online at:

<https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk/finances-and-documents/general-publications/>

WORLDS LARGEST ECOLOGICAL STUDY

- RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEP



Tour party includes parish councillors and clerks.

Did you know we have one of the world's largest ecological study centres on our doorstep? Just down the road at Norbury we've got the BIFoR FACE facility - several towers in the forest, have you noticed them? Eccleshall Parish Council went along to take a look and invited eleven Councillors and Clerks from five nearby parish councils (Standon, Yarnfield, Adbaston, High Offley and Seighford). The project is studying what our atmosphere will be like in around the year 2060, when there's more free carbon dioxide floating around. Scientists come along to run experiments like how it affects the trees, insects, ground, and so on, and monitor the results - they make a prediction and then see if they are wrong (that's science!).

What did we find out? The big surprise was that while planting trees is good, it's not as good as we had all thought - we have to look after those trees as there's a five-year 'carbon debt' from just disturbing the soil. And there is a lot going on in the soil, even in the leaves, that changes the forest when it has more carbon dioxide. So don't just plant new trees - look after them, and look after the old trees too, as replacing them disturbs the soil and releases more carbon dioxide.

We learned lots more than that - if you have access to the internet have a look at this blog post for the councillors' 'trip report': <https://antreid.wordpress.com/2021/09/17/biff-baff-boff/>

Do you need transport getting to medical appointments?

The Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme suffered the same restrictions as most during the Covid lockdown but they are now up and running again.

The scheme aims to provide transport for people in Eccleshall who have limited or no access to public transport or a private car.

Journeys to doctor's surgeries, Stafford or Stoke hospitals or other medical appointments are undertaken.

To qualify for the scheme passengers must register, but there is no charge for registration.

Each journey will be much less than a conventional taxi, the drivers use their own vehicles and are volunteers who receive a nominal amount to cover petrol.

To apply to join the scheme contact Peter & Joy Jones on 01785 851381 or 07815 419166 or email peterwjones@btinternet.com or visit the website at: www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk



If you wish to object to or support a planning application it is best to write a letter to the Stafford Borough Council Planning Department, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford, ST16 3AQ or log a response on the planning portal at <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/planning-public-access> by searching for the application reference number.

A petition with a hundred signatures still only counts as ONE piece of correspondence.

You are welcome to inform Eccleshall Parish Council to advise if you are objecting to or supporting a local application, and we can also review the online responses. The council can then consider it and as a consultee, will also respond to the Borough Council with its opinion.



OTHER COUNCIL UPDATES

Electric Charging Stations

The Parish Council continue to proactively explore opportunities for installation of electric vehicle charging points. We have asked the County Council to keep us updated as to their plans to install Charging Station and to include Eccleshall in any proposals or grant availability.

Wooden Posts

There has been many damaged oak posts on the High Street over the last few months, and recently a number have been replaced by the County Council highways as a result of ongoing reporting and lobbying. The repairs were delayed due to material supply issues.

Beech Road Play Area

The Play Area is currently owned and maintained by the Borough Council. At present the Borough Council has no funds or plans to upgrade it. Over a year ago, the Parish Council asked the Borough Council to transfer ownership of Beech Road Play Area to Eccleshall Parish Council so that we can move forward with a much needed refurbishment and upgrade. The Borough Council delayed consideration of this proposal due to a 12 month asset review, but the Council are now asking them to reconsider.

Plant a Tree

This is the year of "Plant a Tree". Many will want to become involved in planting a tree to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, which is great news for the environment.

Eccleshall Parish Council owns Elford Common and the Eyeswells and at present neither require more tree planting, but options will always be considered.

The Parish Council has recently completed work on the Eyeswell that involved pollarding and managing the trees that are already there.

The Ash tree on Shaw's Lane has a fungal disease which we have been advised is terminal, so the Parish Council has arranged its removal and will be looking into new locations for a suitable replacement tree.

Pavement Clearance

Whilst digging off the pavements is a responsibility of Staffordshire County Council, it has no funds to do this, so the Parish Council resolved to spend money clearing all the pavements for the benefit of all parishioners. It was felt important that mobility scooters and wheelchairs all had easy access to pavements to maximise accessibility. Quotes were sorted and voted on and the work was commissioned to start 18 months ago.

Delays have been experienced in some locations due to contractor resource issues but we expect to see completion over the winter months along the Newport Road, remainder of Swynnerton Road and Stone Road.

Councillor Libby Dale, Vice Chairman

THREE TIERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are 3 tiers of local government in this area and 3 local councils with separate responsibilities, Councillors, and budgets. The main services for each authority are:



Eccleshall
Parish Council



Grass Cutting (at Washpits, Copmere picnic site, Croxton well verges, part of verges at Church St/Castle St, top of Kerry Lane and the Eyeswell footpath)

Jubilee Playing Field (Hartlands Road)

Planning (statutory consultee)

Neighbourhood Plan

Shaws Lane Allotments

Noticeboards, pillar clock and some litter bins (emptied by SBC)

Bus Shelters and benches

Rotational vehicle speed devices

Elford Heath and pool

Croxton Play area

Maintenance of some rights of way (supporting SCC's statutory duty)

Christmas Trees and Lights (with the Ecclesian Society)

Planning Applications, Advice and Enforcement

Local Plan for Stafford Borough

Recycling, bins and waste

Council Tax & Benefits

Car Parking and enforcement

Road Closures, Abandoned Vehicles

Street cleansing, litter & graffiti

Parks, sport & fitness (Beech Rd play area)

Housing & Neighbourhood complaints

Business Rates, Licensing, permits & advice

Environmental Health

Community Safety

Voting & Elections

Tree Preservation Orders

Public Conveniences (and area surrounding, Stone Rd)

Births, deaths, marriages & civil partnerships

Business

Advice, support and care for adults

Children and early years

Care for children and families

Strategic Planning

Education and learning

Health and Social Care

Environment

Libraries and arts

Highways/pavement/street lighting (inc. grass cutting, weeds & highway drains/gully cleansing)

Heritage and archives

Transport

Rights of Way

Telephone 01785 282296

Email: eccleshallpc@gmail.com

Website: www.eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk

Telephone 01785 619000

Email: info@staffordbc.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/>

Telephone: 0300 111 8000

Email: contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk

Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk