

Eccleshall PARISH COUNCIL



Summer Newsletter 2024

www.eccleshallparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



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County Councillor

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Borough Councillors

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

Clerk to the Council

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Eccleshall Parish Council activities 2023-2024



REGULAR ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

- Maintenance of public open spaces - including the Eyeswell path, Jubilee Playing Field, Elford Heath, Croxton playground and Copmere picnic site.
- Asset management - benches, bus shelters, pillar clock, noticeboards
- Provision of the large and small Christmas trees, and the watering contract for the Bloom hanging baskets and troughs
- Maintaining access and repairing signage on key Rights of Way by our dedicated footpaths operative, working from reports supplied by our Footpath Marshals
- Management of 5 rotating Speed Indication Devices
- Hosted the Community Showcase
- Used the lengthsman scheme to undertake tidying round the town centre and Croxton, additional vegetation cutting back to expose road signs, cleaning of the parish milestones, sign cleaning and cutting back of pavement overgrowth.
- Provision of Stafford Brigades Marching Band for Carols around the Tree
- Management of the 'Keep Eccleshall Tidy' Litterpicking team
- Considered and submitted responses to 6I planning applications in 2023
- Responded to national consultations to provide local insight
- Provision of a bi-annual newsletter

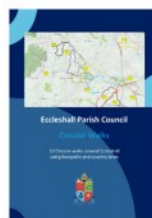


ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Refurbishment of Elford Heath car park surface
- Removed overgrowth on the Newport Road pavement from Cross Butts to Wincote Lane
- Improved the footpath signage through Bishops Wood
- Installed a new signpost on the Eyeswell footpath
- Hosted a Coronation Picnic at Eccleshall Castle
- Installed a new speed device at Croxton in response to resident concerns about speeding
- Created a new Circular Walks brochure for the Parish
- Completed the refurbishments of the BT boxes at Croxton (now a book swap) and Fair Oak (now a defibrillator location)
- Re-coppicing of trees at Elford Heath and the introduction of a no mow area to help local biodiversity
- Undertook a survey of parking issues within the town centre in order to inform future actions

LOBBIED FOR ACTION ON:

- Pothole issues
- Flooding
- Parking
- Roadworks



PROVIDED GRANTS TO:

- Eccleshall Football Club
- Eccleshall Community Amateur Dramatics
- Katharine House
- Eccleshall First Responders
- Community Lounge
- Youth Enterprise Programme
- Bishops Lonsdale PTA



All of these activities, and those planned for the rest of this financial year, have been delivered with no change to the precept for 2024-2025, which currently sits at approximately £3 per month for a Band D household.

Amey continues to support Eccleshall in Bloom

A team from Amey came back to Eccleshall on a very wet day in April to replace a further 9 oak posts for the Ecclesian Society, ahead of planting for the annual bloom display. The new posts have stainless steel anchors which will extend the life of the posts. This work completed the replacement of the High Street and Stafford Street with a total of 40 posts installed by the team to date. There are only eight posts remaining.

The work was undertaken as part of a volunteer initiative. The volunteer days that Amey provides to support these projects really do have a huge impact. It is the only way the work can be completed and the Ecclesian Society and Parish Council are most appreciative for everything they do.



Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme

Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme aims to provide reduced cost transport to and from all type of medical appointments for local people without transport. The scheme is currently looking for voluntary drivers with suitable vehicles.

For more information contact Peter or Joy Jones on 01785 851381 / 07815 419166 , email peterwjones@btinternet.com or visit the website at:

www.eccleshallvoluntarycarscheme.org.uk



Eccleshall Community Library

Eccleshall Parish Council has agreed to run the Eccleshall Community library from August as part of a five-year arrangement with Staffordshire County Council.

High on the parish council's agenda is maintaining the library's role as a community hub and keeping online access for residents.

The library is one of 27 Community Managed Libraries in Staffordshire, in which the management and day-to-day running is taken on by a community group, while the county council remains responsible for providing library stock and IT and paying agreed utility and maintenance costs.

The library has been brilliantly managed by Eccleshall Mercia Rotary Club since 2019, along with a fantastic team of volunteers. The



Parish Council is looking forward to working with the team to continue to provide a high quality service to the users of the library and those who hire the meeting room for their own activities.

Staffs County Highways officers visit Eccleshall

Members of the Parish Council met with officers from the highways team from Staffordshire County Council in May to show them a number of areas of concern in the town centre area. As well as asking for changes to the pedestrian crossing to improve safety, the group highlighted areas where speeding is still a concern, misuse of the roundabout at Sancerre Grange, and parking issues.

The County Council team will be offering solutions and a proposal to undertake a formal feasibility report, to be considered by the Traffic Management Committee.



Beech Road Play area

The Parish Council is in the process of leasing Beech Road play area from Stafford Borough Council, with the aim of refurbishing it to provide a vibrant space for use by the whole community. Parish residents kindly took the time to complete our survey, and a working group consisting of councillors and residents used the responses to put together a document detailing our requirements. This is now with suppliers for them to bring the vision to life and provide designs and pricing. Most of the project will be funded by money ringfenced for play provision, provided as a result of local developments, and accessed via application to Stafford Borough Council.



Defibrillator Awareness Evening

Following the installation by the Parish Council of the defibrillator in the refurbished BT box at Fair Oak in April, the council arranged for defibrillator and general first aid training in Broughton Parish Rooms for anyone who wanted to feel more confident should they ever need to use it.



Bee Friendly Staffs!

Stafford Borough Council hosted a Bee Friendly Workshop at Eccleshall Community Centre on the 11th June. Residents and parish councillors from Eccleshall and other councils came to listen to a fascinating talk by a Bumblebee Conservation Trust volunteer, and share ideas on how to improve open spaces to become more bee friendly. Who knew we have over 250 bee species in the UK! Stafford is officially a Bee Friendly Town, and the Borough Council want to help others to become Bee Friendly too—looking at how both public or private spaces can help our bees to survive. Being bee friendly has been discussed by the parish council several times over recent years. **If anyone would like to join our working group and help us become a bee friendly town and parish, please get in touch.**

Recommended actions to increase pollinator numbers:

- **Plant more native flowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen**
- **Leave patches of land to grow wild that can support pollinators**
- **Cut grass less often and ideally remove cuttings to allow plants to flower**
- **Avoid disturbing or destroying nesting/hibernating insects by having grass margins, bare soil and dead wood**
- **Think carefully about pesticide use – avoid where pollinators are active or where plants are in flower**

Studies have shown that longer areas of grass can boost butterfly numbers, providing the habitat to breed and food for caterpillars. Areas of long grass will also benefit grasshoppers, beetles and the development of ant-hills.

Creating small earth mounds with south facing slopes and scrapes of bare earth will help many species of solitary bee. These can be sown with wildflower seed but ensuring that bare areas are maintained.



Eccleshall Cross Fit

Steps Up To The Challenge

On the 6th July, Eccleshall CrossFit joined the Stafford Central Staffs CrossFit group in an epic fundraising event. The staff and some of its members took on the Welsh 3000's challenge. This is a 24 mile route which includes the 7 highest peaks - 'The Carneddau' 'The Glyderau' and 'The Snowdon Massif'. 6 finished with a time of 20hours and 40 minutes—what an achievement! £2000 has been raised so far, and there is still time to donate.

All the funds raised go to a charity called Bridging the Gap. The Cheshire based charity was set up by a CrossFit group member who found her local group, and more importantly the community in it - helped pull her out of a difficult time. This motivated her to create a charity that intervenes with people who are struggling with mental health before it's too late. They support those individuals that the charity feels could benefit from 'physical therapy' - a method proven in literature to be as, if not more, effective than any medication or therapist on the market.

<https://www.btg-mindmatters.org/>



Eccleshall Allotments Association

The allotments in Eccleshall occupy a beautiful country setting, surrounded by farmland. Members have allotments for many reasons. For some it's the satisfaction of growing fresh food, that hasn't travelled hundreds of miles. For others it's the community and fellowship or an excuse to get out in the fresh air.

If you have a plot, you might never buy another runner bean in the shops, or you may become self-sufficient for potatoes.

Many enjoy our occasional gatherings for a barbecue. And nothing beats sweetcorn plucked from the plant, transported all of 50 metres and placed on the grill in its own wrapping with loads of butter when its cooked, obviously. Heavenly.

There are, of course, the challenges. This year has been particularly wet, and the weeds never seem to stop growing.

If you fancy having a go, there are plots available at the Eccleshall Allotments. Sizes depend on how keen you are and how much time you have. Get in touch via our email address, eccleshallaa@gmail.com and I will be only too happy to show you around the site.

Andy Iliffe (Secretary to the Eccleshall Allotments Association.)



2024 Eccleshall Co

Monday 17th June was the date for the Community Showcase, organised by Eccleshall Parish Council. With over 30 community groups in attendance, it was a fantastic opportunity for residents to drop in and talk to groups about activities on offer within the area. If you were interested in getting your own allotment, joining the WI, or learning how to crochet - there were lots of people there ready to share their interests with you. Pilates, rugby or football more your interest—no problem! For music lovers, there was Broughton Community Choir, Eccleshall Singers, Tutti Flutti and Eccleshall Community Band. There are too many to list here, but the photos give a flavour of what was on offer. Special thanks to Eccleshall Scouts, who were in charge of the refreshments for the evening. You were all brilliant. Here's to another successful event—this time next year everyone?



Community Showcase



2024 Eccleshall Community Showcase ~continued





AFTERNOON TEA



To Commemorate 80 years
since the D-Day landings

Organised by Eccleshall Library's
Community Lounge Team

was held at the Holy Trinity Parish Rooms on Thursday, 6 June 2024. The event was open to all and the sandwiches, scones (with cream and jam, of course!) many delicious cakes plus tea or coffee were enjoyed by everyone who attended. Song sheets, featuring popular World War II songs, were provided and accompanied by a



professional pianist. Everyone was supplied with the flag to wave during the singing. It was an extremely enjoyable occasion for all involved, even for those kind people who generously gave their time to make the event so successful.

More events are planned.

The regular Community Lounge group meet every Thursday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm in the Meeting Room in the Library and



new members are always welcome. On the third Thursday of each month a Community Interest Talk is held, please see the list of interesting and varied topics on the next page. Tickets are limited and cost £1 each available from the library two weeks before each talk.

Eccleshall Community Lounge

Community Interest Topics and Presenters

<u>Date</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
2024		
18 July	Margaret Thompstone	Richard III – Rightful King or Imposter?
15 August	John Ogbourne	Life in a remote Napali village
19 September	Lisa & Wendy	Re-Connected (more Information to follow)
17 October	Barry Pickin	Red Flowers and a bag of old bones
21 November	Margaret Thompstone	A Medieval Christmas
19 December	Community Lounge Christmas Party	
2025		
16 January	Rev. Phillip Johnson	The Eccleshall Pageant of 1926
20 February	Eccleshall Fire Service	Fire safety in the home
20 March	Rob Fearnley Bowcock & Pursaill	Everything you need to know about Wills, Power of Attorney and Inheritance Tax
<i>Future Notice: Due to popular demand, we are delighted to welcome back on the</i>		
16 October	Melanie Latham	Chutney & Cheer for a Christmas buying opportunity

Please note: the dates are the third Thursday of each month from 2 – 4pm in the upstairs room in the library. A ticket, costing £1 from the Reception Desk in the Library, will be required as entry is limited. Tickets will be available from the first Thursday of each month for the lecture in that month only.

The ticket price includes a coffee/tea and biscuits.

Some speakers, who are representing a charity, may bring collection boxes for voluntary donations.

Eccleshall Singathon

On Saturday 19th October 2024 the Grand Eccleshall Singathon will once again fill the Community Centre with music, dance and song this will be the 4th Singathon and due to popular demand will now be an annual event !

It is an unusual idea, a whole day of music with a huge range of local choirs, musicians and performers taking part. This exciting event takes over the entire building with many choirs and larger groups performing in the Main Hall while the

smaller rooms are put into action as Live Lounges with a mix of smaller groups and individuals. It really is extraordinary to witness so much local musical talent drawn from Newcastle to Newport with Eccleshall as the hub, and great to have such a range of ages



performing (last year our oldest performer was 91 and our youngest was 7)!

With teas, coffees and delicious cake available all day in the Singing Café it is definitely a day to put in your diary!

Go to [facebook.co.uk/Eccleshall Grand Singathon](https://facebook.co.uk/Eccleshall%20Grand%20Singathon) for photos and videos of last year's event or visit www.eccleshallsingathon.weebly.com

**Saturday, 19th October 2024 11.30 – 4.30 at Eccleshall
Community Centre. See you there!**

2024 Eccleshall Festival ~

Eccleshall had a full Festival makeover on Saturday 28th June, with a fantastic day filled with entertainment, food, drink and shopping.

Organised by LR Partnership, and sponsored by a number of local community groups and businesses, Eccleshall Festival brought the community out in force to enjoy a fun day for all of the family.

Visitors were spoilt for choice with cuisine from around the world supplied by local businesses and street vendors, and were treated to not only a number of live acts on the main stage, but a fantastic programme of performances from local groups in Holy Trinity Church. Also hosted by the church was the 'Eccleshall's Got Talent' show.

As well as funfair rides and stalls on the High Street, other local pubs and businesses provided entertainment including inflatable fun for the kids and a dog show. The cricket club provided a place to relax and watch the match whilst enjoying a cream tea, and park and ride facilities were provided by Eccleshall FC and Stafford Grammar School to allow over 8000 visitors to come and enjoy the event.

Due to its success, it looks like Eccleshall will be host to another festival on 28th June 2025, so if you missed this one, save the date now!



Saturday 29th June



Parish Council Financial Summary ~ year ending 31st March 2024

Eccleshall Parish Council

Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2024

Last Year Ended 31st March 2023		Current Year Ended 31st March 2024
Operating Income		
93,244.92	Administration	93,018.17
9,295.62	VAT Data	4,815.03
102,540.54	Total Receipts	97,833.20
Running Costs		
41,625.80	Administration	53,073.00
22,934.78	Open Spaces	27,872.37
4,482.14	Projects	3,321.67
4,752.54	Traffic Management	3,283.26
705.00	Highways Maintenance	4,300.00
9,651.02	Events	6,109.43
1,000.00	Village Halls	1,105.00
1,706.06	Contingencies	286.12
5,438.12	VAT Data	5,233.40
92,295.46	Total Payments	104,584.25
Receipts and Payments Summary		
98,018.85	Opening Balance	108,263.93
102,540.54	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	97,833.20
200,559.39		206,097.13
92,295.46	Less Total Payments(As Above)	104,584.25
108,263.93	Closing Balance	101,512.88
These cumulative funds are represented by:		
0.00	Current Bank A/c	0.00
0.00	Deposit Account	0.00
25,655.23	Savings Account 1	26,937.34
6,144.83	Unity Current	1,605.21
76,463.87	Unity Deposit	72,970.33
108,263.93		101,512.88
Reserve Balances are represented by:		
10,245.08	Current Year Fund	-6,751.05
38,447.34	General Reserves	51,072.69
1,100.00	EMR - Clock Maintenance	1,100.00
10,000.00	EMR - Community Centre	10,000.00
1,370.79	EMR - Croxton Play Area	757.79
1,518.00	EMR - Traffic Calming	494.74
6,889.58	EMR - Highways/ex CC Duties	4,589.58
3,605.25	EMR - Training	3,605.25
2,344.14	EMR - Allotments	2,344.14
4,384.01	EMR - Elections	0.00
9,618.00	EMR - Eagle Street Art	9,618.00

Eccleshall Parish Council

Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2024

Last Year Ended 31st March 2023		Current Year Ended 31st March 2024
2,169.96	EMR - IT	2,169.96
5,906.78	EMR - Elford Heath Management	5,846.78
405.00	EMR - Flood Works	405.00
1,260.00	EMR - Copmere Picnic Site	1,260.00
9,000.00	EMR - Beech Road	9,000.00
0.00	EMR - Neighbourhood Plan	6,000.00
108,263.93		101,512.88

Parish Council information

For updates on meetings, community events, Parish projects, refuse lorry collection dates, upcoming consultations and much more, look us up at:

www.eccleshallparishcouncil.gov.uk

Or follow us at www.facebook.com/EccleshallPC

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 clerk@eccleshall.staffslc.gov.uk or by telephone on 01785 282296.



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

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.

Meeting agendas and minutes are all published on the parish council website.

<https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk/>

USEFUL CONTACTS

HIGHWAYS

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

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit

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

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**

PARKING

For parking issues where cars are parked in contravention to highway restrictions (e.g. double yellow lines, bus stops, school keep clears etc. this can be reported to the County Council using the shortcut link:

<https://bit.ly/3RM3jsl>

If a vehicle is obstructing access to pavements, or is parked dangerously, this can be reported to the police using the non urgent 101 function or online by using this shortcut link:

<https://bit.ly/43N2HcC>

REFUSE LORRY

The Civic Amenity Lorry parks on Stone Road opposite the Methodist Church from 9 - 11am for the disposal of excess waste .

Dates for 2024 are on noticeboards and the parish website.

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 by clicking the live chat button at: **<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/>**

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