

Newborough Parish Council

*Winner - East Staffordshire Best Kept Small Village 2005 & 2006
Winner - Best Kept Small Village and Overall Best Kept Village in East Staffordshire - 2002 & 2003
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ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

April 2007 to March 2008

Parish Councillors

In April of 2007 Councillor Tom Sale presented his resignation after serving on the Parish Council since his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in March 2002. We sincerely thank Tom for all his help and commitment to the Parish Council within his 5 years of service.

In May of 2007 we welcomed Annie Briggs as Parish Councillor to replace the position previously held by Councillor Peter Clamp.

We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, although we have recently received an expression of interest.

Parish Clerk

After several years of sterling service, Christine Roach stood down as Parish Clerk. We have advertised the position widely and are in the process of interviewing for her replacement. Christine has served the Parish Council well and we are also grateful for her support during the transition to her successor.

Best Kept Village

Judging took place between May and July for Best Kept Village 2007. Sadly this year, Newborough was awarded a 'Highly Commended' rating. The overall comment made by the Judges stated that we were very close to winning, but with "a little more attention to detail" would soon be back to our winning ways.

As a village, we can be proud of our success in this competition and I am sure everyone will make an extra special effort during the judging period. We have entered again for 2008 and hope we can depend on your support as in previous years. Judges will visit the villages twice, first in May and again June, judging of finals taking place in July.

Funding/Improvements

A big thank you to the many initiatives and organisations that help financially support some of our improvements, to include:

- Bedding Grant 07/08 - £38.75
- WASP Grant (Cllr. Tim Corbett) - £395.00
(additional village hall chairs)

Highways

We are in constant touch with Staffordshire Highways who are very helpful, given their aim to respond to every parishes needs. Following the disruption caused by the recent works to the water mains in and around the village, the Parish Council continues to lobby for remedial works from the contractors.

I should like to thank Cllr. Nelson for his regular communication with Staffordshire Highways regarding village needs and concerns.

Street Lighting

Following the initial phase of replacement of lighting within the village and positive comments from parishioners, the second stage of the five year programme is about to commence. We plan to replace two further lanterns, one is outside The Old School House and the other adjacent to the bridge, by the Red Lion.

Footpaths

The footpaths in and around Newborough are an integral part of what makes our village so special. Are you someone who could spare some of your time to ensure we can monitor them? The Parish Council no longer has a member able to undertake the duties as Footpaths Officer and, therefore, if anyone is willing to volunteer to undertake monitoring of the footpaths and stiles within the village could they please contact either the Parish Clerk or Vice Chair, Brenda Skipper. Perhaps it could be combined with a family outing, or even taking the dog for a walk. It is a progressive task than can be spread throughout the year.

All Saints Church Wall

We have now received Planning Permission for realignment of the boundary wall for All Saints Church, Newborough and are in the process of applying for grants and monies to commence works. As described

at the last Annual Parish Open Meeting, the improvements to visibility are ultimately intended to provide a safer crossing point.

Playground

We continue to have regular inspections by RoSPA and have implemented their recommendations in terms of improvements. In addition, we have replaced the bark chippings in the multi-play unit with rubber crumb, providing a safer and softer landing area! We are pleased to see this amenity being well used.

All Saints Church, Newborough: Report by Brian Beck and Rod Stace, Church Wardens:

During the year the average attendance of fourteen was a slight increase on the previous year, with income from collections, baptisms, weddings and funerals of £4,000.00.

With basic running costs of £1,000.00 per month (£13,000.00) per annum, many thanks must go to the people involved in fund raising and donations which help to meet the cost of keeping the church open. As there is limited space remaining in the churchyard for burials, the Church Wardens are currently in discussion with the Diocese as to the possibility of re-using part of the ground used for burials 80 - 90 years ago.

During the year, all the church windows were cleaned inside and out and 96 pieces of glass replaced. The shafts to the faces of the clock were removed, cleaned, greased and replaced at a cost of £1,100.00. A new heating system has been installed and during the next few weeks a sound system and hearing loop will be put in.

After many years of hard work mowing and keeping the churchyard tidy, Mr Jim Barks has retired. Many thanks to Jim and his family for a job well done. If there is anyone in the Parish who could help to maintain the churchyard, for which a small gratuity is paid, please contact the Church Wardens.

Needwood CE (VA) Primary School. Report by Mrs Caroline Jackson, Acting Headteacher

This year has seen a number of changes not least Julie Alexander leaving to be a head teacher at a larger school.

We have been pleased to welcome an Ofsted team, and were pleased to be graded as good or better in all areas. This is a huge improvement on the last Ofsted, and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all staff.

The school has started two major initiatives, gaining Healthy School Status in the summer term, also gaining the Active Mark 2007. We are also busy getting "Caught Reading", and on Wednesday and Friday are participating in Active Lunchtimes. Both have increased awareness within the school, fostering the love of reading, and the love of participating in team games.

The curriculum continues to be enriched using opportunities to taste food, experience life as an Egyptian, play with Victorian toys, visit a mosque and a synagogue, ballroom dancing, acting in the Christmas play, dancing as part of May Day activities as well as learning lots, and achieving a very high standard of results in all key stages of learning (Years Foundation, Two and Six).

We like to offer our pupils a broad and balanced curriculum and also encourage visitors into school and offer as many visits out, to support and enrich the curriculum, as possible. We continue to have close contact with the local Church and regularly welcome Rev'd Mann and Rev'd Fox into school and also attend services in church.

For further details about the school, including a broader insight into our activities please log onto the school website: www.needwood.staffs.sch.uk.

The Red Lion Public House

We would like to welcome Iain Marr to Newborough and we wish him well in his venture. Iain has certainly integrated well into our village life, taking on the Chairman's role for the annual Well Dressing.

Youth and Adult Centre, Newborough

Following the success of the Open Meeting last year, a committee has been established to work with the owners of Hollybush Hall to progress this important community project. Draft plans have been drawn up for a new village hall on the site off Elton Close. The Planning Application has now been submitted and, as soon as a decision has been made, an open meeting will be arranged. Date to be confirmed.

Volunteers are always welcome and anyone interested in assisting should contact Gill O'Neill or Phil Spencer on (01283) 575303.

Youth Club

The Youth Club is running very successfully thanks to Gill O'Neill and Phil Spencer. Anyone wishing to contact the Youth Club can ring Gill or Phil on (01283) 575303.

Recycle Bins

Despite home recycling collections, recycling bins are still located in the Red Lion car park. These provide a financial benefit to Newborough Youth Club and we urge those residents who are not yet part of the recycling scheme to continue to use them and for other residents to use them as an 'overflow' facility, between normal collections.

This financial year has, so far, raised £60.00 between October 2006 and March 2007 and £60.00 between April 2007 and September 2007 for the Newborough Youth Club. Please support this as the more you bin, the more they win!

Newborough Well Dressing: Report by Iain Marr

May Day is nearly upon us and Newborough will once again be Well Dressing. The theme for this year's boards will be the plays of William Shakespeare. May Day - May 5th this year - will start at 10.30am with a family service in the church, during which, we will crown the May Queen. At 11.15 the procession will commence and this will be followed by the usual live entertainments and family fun day on the school field. We would greatly appreciate offers of help, particularly on the day itself, so if you could spare an hour or two, please get in touch. I can be contacted on (01283) 575785.

Once again, we will be inviting children - of all ages - to make and decorate their own "mini maypole". This is an old tradition, sometimes known as "garlanding", and was a central feature of May Day celebrations in central and southern England until the mid-19th century. Children used to process with their own highly decorated pole, with hoops or cross-sticks or swags attached, covered with flowers, greenery or artificial materials such as crepe paper. There will be grand judging at about 12 noon in the Square with prizes for the most attractive. Please support our attempt to re-introduce this old tradition and make May Day even more colourful.

We also have plans to extend the number of sideshow attractions this year and will be spreading further out of the village centre. We are also trying to introduce a shuttle bus, with parking to be provided at Eland Lodge, courtesy of the owners.

Tatenhill Airfield Development

In June 2006, ESBC Planning Department refused an application from the Duchy of Lancaster for permission to develop the facilities at Tatenhill Airfield. However, in December 2006, the Duchy of Lancaster lodged an appeal against this decision. We are pleased to announce that at the full Public Hearing in September 2007, the concerns of local residents were taken into consideration and whilst consent was given, it was for a greatly scaled down enterprise and with restrictions on the number of flights and take-off/landing hours.

Bagot's Park Windfarm

As you may be aware by all the publicity in the past 7 months, Airtricity have submitted a planning application to build a wind farm at Bagot's Park. The site will consist of 8 Wind Turbines and the associated infrastructure to enable this to work. Construction will take 9-12 months to complete and the expected life time of the turbines is estimated at 25 years. The maximum hub height will be 70m and the total height to blade tip will be 110m.

With regard to the effect on our views in Newborough the following information was taken from the Bagot's Park Windfarm environment statement:

"Newborough lies around 4km to the south-east of the site. The ZTV shows very limited visibility from here, due to the enclosed landform on which the settlement is built. The ZTV shows a fringe of visibility on the northern edge of the village, but here a low foreground ridge screens views, and the houses are orientated away from the site. The ZTV also indicates visibility on the elevated approach from the east, just before the road drops down into the village. Here, however, the vegetation in and around the settlement screens views, although glimpse may be available, especially in winter. It should be noted that there is visibility from areas to the north of Newborough, outside the settlement boundary, which is represented in Vp 6".

The national target for renewable energy is 10% by 2010. In 2000 our region generated less than 0.1% of its consumption from renewable sources. The current target for our region by 2010 is 100MW; the installed capacity at Bagot's Park will be 18.4MW which would satisfy approximately 12% of our regions target.

Anyone wanting to view the proposed layout of the windfarm or to see the computer generated view from Hollybush road (Vp 6) can view the documents at our open meeting in April or contact our Parish Council Chairman.

Parish Plan

Our aim over the next year is to produce a Parish Plan. This document is compiled from the aspirations and opinions of people in the local community. It is a plan of what people see as their vision of the future and how they would like to see the parish develop over future years. It also contains 'actions' necessary to achieve those objectives. The actions can be instigated by various groups, both within and outside the parish, and should also assist with grant applications for funding.

We are looking for volunteers to be part of the steering group from a wide representation of our community. Over a series of meetings, we will put together a strategy, budget and programme on how we are going to undertake the plan, ensuring we consult with everyone in the community. If this is something you would like to be involved with, please contact Annie Murphy or Brenda Skipper to discuss further.

Housing Needs Survey: Key Findings - (Presented by Yvonne Davis, Trent and Dove Housing)

Trent & Dove Housing in partnership with Midlands Rural Housing carried out a housing needs survey in Newborough. We would like to thank everyone for completing the surveys and would like to report the key results:

- Out of 173 households, 60 survey forms were completed (35% - which is a good return rate)
- House prices in the village are higher than the majority of East Staffordshire
- Of the 126 people from 60 surveys : the age profile shows 30% over 60 and 23% with children under 16
- Of the 60 respondents 83% were owner occupiers, 15% in rented accommodation and 2% did not complete the question. The Association currently owns 13 properties; 3 bungalows and 10 houses (a number of houses have been sold through Right to buy)
- 8% were aware of people who moved out to find suitable affordable properties
- 50% would support a small housing scheme, 27% against and 23% undecided

Out of 60 completed surveys, 54 don't need to move and were not analysed further. The 6 with housing needs were considered further, and they would like to stay within the village but cannot afford properties on the open market. Two types of need emerge; for family housing and also bungalows for the elderly. The types of properties which would be suitable are 2 x 2- bed houses for shared ownership and 1 x 2- bed to rent for family needs. Elderly housing needs would be 1 x 2- bed bungalow for shared ownership and 2 x 2- bed for rent.

We would like to thank you for the time taken to complete the survey and helping us to collect this information.

Staffordshire Police

P.C. 3574 Guy Jones can be contacted on 08453 303132 and he is based at Uttoxeter Police Station.

Notes of Appreciation

- Thank you all for your continued support in the village entry for Best Kept Village
- Thanks to Jim and Janet Barks for all their work throughout the year helping to keep the village tidy
- Thanks to Jim Barks for mowing the Churchyard and keeping it so presentable.
- To the children of Needwood CE(A) Primary School for the wonderful Best Kept Village Posters
- Thanks to all the village organisations who keep our village life so entertaining
- Jean Austin for donating the Christmas tree this year and everyone who helped put it in place
- The Red Lion for allowing us a recycling facility within their grounds
- Maurice Beeston for donating the colourful hanging baskets to the village
- Bob Rushton for his help to the Parish Council
- Peter Spencer for his support and advice on the Church Wall project
- Parish Councillors for their continued support
- To the Parish Clerk, Christine Roach for her aforementioned hard work and support

Councillors:	Paul Macpherson (Chairman)	575383
	Brenda Skipper (Vice Chairperson)	575600
	Annie Briggs	575565
	William Prince	575220
	Andrew Nelson	575477
	Richard Oakley	575988

Parish Clerk: To be confirmed

Councillor Paul Macpherson
Chairman

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