



The Yew Tree

December 2013

Newsletter for Keele Parish Council

Keele Parish Councillors

Ann Abercrombie

Graham Bibby

Jane Corfield

John Downing

Duncan Hindmarch

Sue Hughes

Wenslie Naylor (Chair)

Val Newman (Vice-Chair)

Angela Studd

Robin Studd



**Season's
Greetings**
**From your parish
councillors**

Vacancy on the Parish Council

Rev. Dr. Jane Atherton-Tillier has resigned from the Parish Council, following her election as one of only 8 female representatives to the House Of Bishops. We would like to thank Jane for her contribution to the council and congratulate her on her new role.

Notices were displayed in the Parish Council notice boards, as is legally required, and there were no requests for an election so the Parish Council is now able to co-opt a new member to fill the vacancy. If you would like to get involved then please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Hawthorns/Barnes Development Application

At the first Planning Committee meeting to on 29th October the members of the committee decided to make a site visit, which took place on 9th November. The application was then considered at the meeting on 19th November, and the committee voted to refuse the application for the developments at Hawthorns and Barnes. Unfortunately the application to demolish buildings in the Conservation Area was not considered at that meeting, so there was a third visit by speakers opposed to the development to the Planning Committee meeting on 10th December. This application was also refused as there was no information about what would happen to the area post demolition, and this is a requirement of both local and national policy. We do not know if Keele University will appeal against this decision, but in the meantime the Parish Council will be writing to both the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor offering to meet them to discuss appropriate development of the site(s).



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Keele Homes Proposed Pepper Street Development

Keele Homes held a drop in event at Keele Village Hall on 29th November for residents to look at their proposals and air any concerns. This was a well attended event with Keele Homes receiving many comments, particularly about building in green belt, and they have amended their plans as a result. There is still much concern about the proposal to expose the underground fire in an attempt to extinguish it, as it appears to be dying out naturally.

Hedges

Finally the hedges along the bottom part of Pepper Street have been cut, but unfortunately the pavement was left littered with bits of the hedge. The old saying "be careful what you wish for" comes to mind! However, StreetScene have once again stepped into the breach and done a fantastic job of sweeping up the debris and making the footpaths usable again.

This is the best time of year for all us to review the state of our hedges, especially those that border a pavement, and to check that they are not encroaching upon footpaths. A cut done now will last a good few months and you can be guaranteed of not disturbing nesting birds.

Street Sweeping and Gully Emptying

On Monday 16th December Streetscene were back in Keele again, this time clearing leaves and debris in The Village, while County Council Highways were clearing the gullies to try and prevent flooding during heavy storms. They ventured along Quarry Bank Road and also cleared the drain that has been responsible for the water gathering at the junction with Church Bank.

Advertising on Keele Parish Council Noticeboards & Website

Since the installation of the larger new notice boards in The Village and on campus there is a space that can be used to advertise local events and even small local businesses. If you would be interested please contact Wenslie Naylor and we can also include information online on the parish website.

Green Belt Development and HS2

At the Parish Council meeting on 12th December a vote was taken to establish the Parish Council's view re development in the Green Belt and HS2. There was a unanimous decision that any development in the Green Belt or the Conservation Area would be resisted.

The Parish Council also voted to oppose the building of HS2, on the grounds that it would draw business away from communities to London as has happened across Europe where such links have been built. It will also devastate the communities it passes through whilst offering no benefit and has no demonstrated democratic mandate.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Parish Council Clerk Contact Details – Clerk2.KeelePC@gmail.com

Don't forget that more details of events/activities within the Parish are available on the website www.keeleparish.org.

Phone Numbers to remember:

StreetScene: 01782 742500 or 615599 for out-of-hours emergencies

Non Emergency Police: 101 - Non Emergency Health Service: 111

Rural Runabout Booking Requests: 01782 751164

Village Hall Lettings: 01782 626372