



The Yew Tree

December 2011

Newsletter for Keele Parish Council

Keele Parish Councillors

Graham Bibby

John Downing

Duncan Hindmarch

Sue Hughes

Wenslie Naylor (Chair)

Val Newman

Lyn Skinner

Angela Studd

Robin Studd

Jane Tillier

Sue Wedgwood (Vice-Chair)



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

National Non Emergency Telephone Number for Police

Communities across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent now have access to 101, the national non-emergency telephone number for the police service in England and Wales. This makes it easier to contact the local police force and report non emergency issues. You should continue to call 999 in emergencies, such as when a crime is in progress, where there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened. Calls to 101 will cost 15p regardless of the length of the call. The cost is the same from landlines and mobiles. Further information is available at www.staffordshire.police.uk/101

Grit Bins & Winter Salt

Gritting is the responsibility of the County Council and following the severe weather last winter salt stocks have been doubled again. Grit bins are currently being filled across the county so if you know of any that have been missed, please let us know so we can liaise with the Highways team. www.staffordshire.go.uk provides information on gritting activities each afternoon.

Street & Drain Cleaning

By the time you receive this newsletter the drains in The Village should have been cleared, as this is scheduled for 9th December. The Highways community team are also coming to the village from



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16th to 22nd December, and they have been asked to clean all the highway signs, sweep the pavements and cut back hedges that are encroaching on pavements, especially in Pepper Street.

Speed Checks in The Village

PCSO Sue Durber and her colleague PC Coward carried out laser speed checks in The Village on November 12th, and within an hour they identified 11 speeding motorists. The checks will be repeated from time to time.

Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping can be a problem in the parish and most recently black bags full of 'chinese takeaway' catering waste were dumped in the turning space on Highway Lane. Streetscene were informed and within 12 hours it was removed. If any items are dumped illegally near you please call 01782 742500. The call will be logged and passed to Streetscene. Always ask if the rubbish can be traced, as there have been successful prosecutions.

Mr Czwatynski does an excellent job of clearing general litter, and he has pointed out that newspaper is regularly being dumped/dropped on the road into the village. If anyone has seen this happening or has any information please contact the Parish Council Clerk.

Parish Council Funding

Keele Parish Council is funded by an annual payment and precept from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. Every year the Parish Council has to prepare a realistic budget which covers all necessary expenditure such as Parish Council administration; asset maintenance; grounds maintenance; special projects; donations to community groups and other things which benefit the wider community. The budget must take into account inflation and rising costs. Once the budget is approved, at the start of the year the Parish Council will ask for this money by making a precept request which is collected by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council within the Council Tax.

Planning

Keele University have been granted planning permission for the changes to the Students Union and the centre of the campus. While this is in progress certain areas of the car park will be cordoned off. The Parish Council have requested that the 30 minute only slots are retained at all times.

Get involved in producing a Parish Plan for Keele

The parish councillors would like to produce a Parish Plan for Keele. This will help identify the things in the parish that should be retained and enhanced, and hopefully highlight areas where we can do things that will improve life in the parish. A good plan will help us to bid for funding that becomes available throughout the year, as it should have details of services/projects that we would like to implement. It should also help us to protect the parish from unsuitable development. If you would like to be involved then let us know.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Parish Council Clerk Contact Details - Clerk.KeelePC@gmail.com