



# The Yew Tree

February 2015

Newsletter for Keele Parish Council

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## Keele Parish Councillors

Ann Abercrombie

Graham Bibby

Jane Corfield

John Downing

Duncan Hindmarch

Chris Harrison

Sue Hughes

Wenslie Naylor (Vice -Chair)

Val Newman (Chair)

Angela Studd

Robin Studd

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## **Public Inquiry re Hawthorns/Barnes Development Continues Tues 10<sup>th</sup> – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015**

Please come along to as many of the sessions as you can. It is important we show the Planning Inspector that there is strong public opposition to the proposed development.

The Inquiry starts at 9.30 am every morning in the main Council Chamber, and members of the public can come and go as they please. Visitors are asked to sign in and the attendance lists are given to the Inspector, so even if you can only stay for a little while please try and pop in.

There is usually a break for lunch about 13.00, but the timing depends on the proceedings, and the Inspector will choose to break at convenient points in the process, rather than sticking to a fixed timetable.

### **The Hawthorns/Barnes Development - Public Inquiry Update**

The start of the Inquiry was delayed by a day because the Council's barrister was unwell, and although he made a brief appearance on the second day it was apparent he would not be able to perform. The Planning Inspector decided that despite this the Inquiry should continue and the Parish Council was asked to present its evidence<sup>1</sup> before the Council. Following this the Inquiry was adjourned until January 8<sup>th</sup>, when the Council's evidence was presented.

The format of the Inquiry is for a witness to read a summary of their evidence, and be questioned by their barrister in order to highlight key points. The witness is then cross-examined by the opposing barrister.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February at 9 30 am Keele Seddon's barrister will cross examine the last of the Council's witnesses. Keele Seddon's witnesses will then present their evidence, and they will be cross examined by the Council's barrister and the Parish Council. When all the evidence has been presented each party presents a closing statement summing up its case.

Members of the public can request to speak at the Inquiry. If you would like to then please contact Alan Ridley at the Planning Inspectorate ([alan.ridley@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alan.ridley@pins.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange a time with the Inspector. The Inspector will probably ask for a copy of your statement to be given to all interested parties so it is worth having 4 copies to distribute.

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<sup>1</sup> Keele Parish Council's evidence and opening statement are on the Parish Council website



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If you need transport to get to Newcastle for the Inquiry then please contact the Parish Clerk who will arrange for someone to take you. Either email or call on 07901692414.

### Pepper Street Development - Keele Homes

Negotiations between the Borough Council and Keele Homes on the conditions associated with this application continue. Unfortunately the Parish Council has no input to this process, and is concerned both about the length of time this is taking and the details of the agreement. We are trying to get more information from the Borough Council and will keep you updated.

### Would You Like to be a Parish Councillor?

Election Day is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May and this year the Parish Council is due for election. There are 11 councillors to be elected and if you would like to stand you can find the relevant forms and information on the Borough Council's website by searching for "council elections". Nominations open on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and close at 4 pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Please note that it is worth getting your application in early and getting it checked at the Borough Council offices to make sure it meets all the requirements.

If you want to find out a bit more about what is involved why not come along to a meeting, or contact one of the current councillors.

### Bus Services

The extension of the First no. 3 service to Madeley is causing some confusion in the village as the buses from Madeley use the bus stop outside 3 The Village to pick up. Some drivers have stopped outside The Sneyd Arms and encouraged waiting passengers to cross the road, and as a result there have been some near accidents. If you plan to use the no. 3 service to Newcastle check whether the service starts in Keele or Madeley, so you are at the appropriate bus stop.

All the bus companies have asked us to encourage residents to inform them of any bad practice in the village or on Keele Drive. Please make a note of the time and the direction in which the bus was travelling and report it to the bus company.

The use of The Covert by the 28 bus is also a concern as buses have started to mount the kerb. On Wednesdays there is considerable congestion due to coach traffic to the Sports Centre, and it can be a real bottleneck. The Parish Council has questioned why buses are being allowed to use the road, and we are told that Wardle Transport has registered the route. We are continuing to press for this to be changed.

First are looking for someone in the Madeley/Keele area interested in being a mystery traveller on the service. You will receive a free bus pass, and in return be asked to send an email rating your travel experience whenever you travel. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk.

### Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee AGM will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This year has seen an increase in usage of the hall, and facilities are being improved all the time. So, if you are having an event please think about whether the Village Hall could be a suitable venue.

**Parish Council Clerk Contact Details – email :** [Clerk.KeelePC@gmail.com](mailto:Clerk.KeelePC@gmail.com) or tel: 07901692414

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