



# The Yew Tree

July 2012

## Newsletter for Keele Parish Council

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### Keele Parish Councillors

Ann Abercrombie

Graham Bibby

John Downing

Duncan Hindmarch

Sue Hughes

Wenslie Naylor (Chair)

Val Newman

Angela Studd

Robin Studd

Jane Tillier

Sue Wedgwood (Vice-Chair)

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### Community Led Plan

Community-Led (Parish) plans are aimed at giving people who live and work in rural and semi-rural towns & villages, such as Keele, a way of deciding how they would like their village or town to develop over the next five to ten years. Within the new localism bill from the government it is also the way to communicate this vision to other councils and to develop a blueprint for the future.

The Plan should address all factors that have an impact on the quality of life including social, transport, housing, recreation, parish facilities, planning issues, etc.

Although the process may be initiated by the Parish Council a Community Led Plan should not be produced by the local Council but by a Steering Group of volunteers from the local community. The steering group will work independently, but ideally involve some Councillors, to enable the two bodies to liaise in a co-operative way.

If you would like to get involved in the plan please let one of your councillors know, and look out for notice of consultation meetings coming soon.

### **Perennial Parking Problems in the Village**

The Parish Council, Borough Councillors and representatives of the University have continued to meet regularly over the summer break to resolve the parking problems experienced in the last academic year. Unfortunately we have been informed that, despite the university offering to pay for the survey, Staffordshire County Council were not able to resource a survey of the parking problems in the village prior to the students' summer break. This could mean that we are facing the same problems in October, which we all consider totally unacceptable. After numerous attempts to arrange a meeting with officers from the county to pursue this, we finally have a meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Rural Runabout**

The rural runabout is an initiative from six local Parish Councils, including Keele, aimed at addressing transport problems for community groups in the six areas. The "rural runabout" itself is a 12 seater minibus that is available for hire to take groups on social outings e.g. to the theatre, or sports groups to fixtures or young people to leisure facilities.

The bus must be driven by one of the bank of volunteer drivers, all of whom have been carefully assessed. At the moment there are no drivers from Keele, so there is an opportunity for anyone interested. The bus is parked at the new Madeley Centre and bookings for the service can be made via the Madeley Community Association on **01782 751164**.



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### Meeting re Hollywood Land

Members of the Parish Council met with the owners of the land to the west of the Hollywood track, which includes the “fire site”. The owners are working with a company skilled in land remediation, and they propose to excavate the fire and extinguish it. They will be able to do the necessary work onsite so there will no heavy goods traffic once the equipment is in place.

The owners propose to remediate the whole area (c.40 acres) ( Hollywood Garage is not included as they do not own it) and build a new access road off Pepper Street, beyond the current houses and before the bend. The land will then be offered to housing developers for approx. 75 high value houses, with the remainder of the area being landscaped and footpaths provided.

The first step is to get outline planning permission for the massive task of extinguishing the fire, grading the site and general landscaping. This is likely to take at least 2 years and during this time the owners intend to involve the local community and put on a detailed exhibition and presentation of their ideas for the whole site.

### Family Fun Days during the Summer Holiday

On Wednesdays and Saturdays from 25th July—1st September (except 28/07 & 04/08) Keele University Sustainability Hub are hosting Family Fun Days. For more details call Colette on 733555, or visit the website [www.keele.ac.uk/keelehub/news](http://www.keele.ac.uk/keelehub/news) . More details can be found on the parish website too.

### Free Summer Film Club on Campus

The film club is aimed at children of roughly primary age from Keele parish, and screenings will take place on Sunday mornings at 11 am. Children must be accompanied by an adult and must be registered with the club. Contact Sarah Graham [srhgrhm@gmail.com](mailto:srhgrhm@gmail.com) to register, and look at the events page on the parish website for more details.

### New Parish Council Noticeboard

The Parish Council have requested a notice board on the campus, and this is to be provided as part of the Students Union refurbishment, which should be complete by September. Although I suspect most campus residents read parish information online (!), the notice board will hopefully help students to feel more involved in the area.

### Staffordshire Cares

Staffordshire Cares is a free service which provides practical help and advice for any age, health or disability related issue. They are now offering a face to face service, and the nearest advice point is at the Guildhall in Newcastle. It is open Monday to Friday 9.00 – 5.00 and you can call to arrange an appointment on 01782 717717. For more details look at their website [www.staffordshirecares.info](http://www.staffordshirecares.info) .

### Last But Not Least

Thanks to everyone who came to the Jubilee Tea Party in June. We enjoyed meeting you all, and look forward to hosting a similar event later in the year.

Parish Council Clerk Contact Details - [Clerk.KeelePC@gmail.com](mailto:Clerk.KeelePC@gmail.com)