



# The Yew Tree

March 2013

Newsletter for Keele Parish Council

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## 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

Jane Tillier

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## **Bus Stop Improvements**

The road works in the village have been all but completed, with just a few minor tasks remaining. The wall around the Yew Tree looks wonderful, and the tree itself is looking much better than it usually does at this time of year. All users of the buses will appreciate the new shelter in bad weather, and the improvement programme is continuing with work taking place at various bus stops on campus. This will provide new bus shelters and real time information for bus timetables.

As part of the programme a new Parish Council notice board has been erected on the corner of Three Mile Lane and The Village, and some of you may also have noticed the new Parish Council notice board on campus. It is to the left of the steps going down to the Students Union from the car park.

The road works caused considerable disruption, and were unfortunately delayed by the bad weather in January, so thank you to all for your patience, and I hope you feel it has been worth it.

## **Hawthorns & Barnes Development**

In February Keele University held 2 more consultation days re development of The Hawthorns, and about 40 people attended each event. The new proposals include parking for parents dropping children at the school, as well as the construction of 94 executive homes, including The Villa, and conversion of Hawthorns House to apartments. The vehicular access to the majority (79) of these will be from Station Road (opposite Highway Lane).

Following the public consultation the University is now consulting with the Local Authorities with the intention of developing more detailed plans and layouts. As part of this planning process, the University proposes a further public session to show how the detail has developed. The University hope to submit the planning application in April.

## **Coal Bed Methane Extraction**

Keele University have applied to Staffordshire County Council for an extension to the permission they were awarded in 2010 to undertake an exploratory drilling process to extract methane from the coal bed. Although a drilling operation was undertaken in the summer of 2010, there was a problem with the original drilling which needs to be addressed. This requires a drilling rig back on site for about 50 days. As the original permission is now several years old the Parish Council has requested further information from the Keele University re the operation.



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### **Parking restrictions on Quarry Bank Road**

Following a survey undertaken by Staffordshire County Council, a proposal has been produced for parking regulations on Quarry Bank Road. The regulations would involve some double yellow lines, and some time limited parking restrictions. All households/businesses within the area should receive details from the County Council in due course.

### **Speed Limits in the Village**

The Parish Council are aware that cars continue to speed through the village, and we have written to County Councillor Simon Tagg asking him to propose an extension of the 30 mph limit down Station Road to the bypass. We have also requested that the limit on the A525 is reduced to 30 mph from Station Road down to the bridge, as there are residential properties here, and it is part of the school route to Madeley. We also requested that Three Mile Lane should have a 30 mph limit, at least as far as Lymes Road, but preferably down to the motorway services. This is even more important now that cars are parking close to the junction with The Village.

### **Community Speedwatch**

One way of enforcing the current speed limits is to introduce a community speedwatch. There is now a scheme in place to enable volunteers to police other areas, so rather than monitoring speed in Keele, you will be part of a speedwatch team in another area, and another team will monitor speeding in Keele. If you would like to take part in the scheme training is available. Please contact a member of the Parish Council if you are interested.

### **Drivers for Rural Runabout**

More drivers are needed for the rural runabout, and we need registered drivers from Keele. So now would be an ideal time to volunteer if you have the time. There is no age limit (one driver is over 80) and it only takes 4 hours training, so please give it some thought. If you want to book the bus please call 01782 751164 Tues, Wed or Thurs between 9 am and 1 pm. Outside of these times you can leave a message on the answer phone.

### **Non Emergency calls to the Police**

If you need to call the police and it is not an emergency please dial 101. Although you may have the phone number of the PCSO if she is not on duty then she may not pick up the call for a few days. The call will also not be logged unless you use 101.

### **Non Emergency calls to the NHS**

A new non-emergency number has also been introduced by the NHS. In non life threatening cases please call 111 rather than 999. The line is staffed by nurses and should you need an ambulance they will arrange for it, so you won't lose valuable time.

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

Don't forget that more details of events/activities within the Parish are available on the website [www.keeleparish.org](http://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 627204