



The Yew Tree

October 2012

Newsletter for Keele Parish Council

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)

Changes in the Centre of The Village

Members of the Parish Council have been working with the County Council to improve the complicated junction around the Yew Tree, and funding has been obtained that will enable work to start on the agreed scheme.

The major changes are the creation of an additional grass area around the Yew Tree and "Bus Only" restrictions on the short connection from Three Mile Lane to The Village. An additional bus stop for "through" buses run by Baker and D&G will be created just below the existing First bus stop.

The "Bus Only" restriction means that the Post Box will have to be moved so the Royal Mail driver will be able to access it. The new location will be on Quarry Bank Road on the approach to Church Bank. Although this will be a slight detour for those using a car, it should be safer for those who walk to the box.

When the detailed plans are available from the County Council they will be delivered to those who live in the centre of the village, and they will also be available to view on the parish website and notice boards.

Timetable for The Village Works

The County Council currently plan to begin the work in November with completion scheduled for January. There will obviously be disruption during this time, and we are liaising with the County Council in order to keep this to a minimum.

Drain Clearance

During the recent heavy rains it was obvious that the rain water drains in the village were unable to cope with the volume of water. Although there was higher than average rainfall the problem was exacerbated by some of the drains being badly silted up. Following a request from the Parish Council the County Council sent a team out to clear all the drains, and this should have resolved the problem.

Street Lighting – Energy Conservation Initiative

In April this year Staffordshire County Council approved changes to the way its street lights would be operated. The changes will mean that the majority of new street lights will be fitted with equipment that will reduce (dim) light output levels from late evening to early morning. This facility will also be retrofitted to older street lights.

The following regime will be adopted across the county:

Traffic Routes – street lights dimmed down from 100% brightness to 50% brightness between the hours of 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs.



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Other Routes (including residential streets) – These street types will have a two stage dim process with street lights dimmed down from 100% brightness to 75% brightness between the hours of 20:30 hrs and 00:00 hrs and from 75% brightness to 50% brightness from 00:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs.

Are there lights you would like to see switched off?

In conjunction with the above dimming strategy the County Council has also approved the introduction of part night switched street lights when requested by a Parish Council and approved by the local community. In these cases the street lights would switch off at 00:00 hrs and switch back on at 05:30 hrs.

If you know of any lights that could be safely switched off at night (and your neighbours are in agreement) please let the Parish Clerk know, and it will be discussed at Parish Council and if agreed passed to the County Council for vetting.

N.B. The briefing notes from the County Council have been posted on the Parish website (www.keeleparish.org) if you would like to read more about the initiative.

Dog Fouling

The Borough Council plans to introduce additional Dog Control Orders. It is already an offence for an owner to allow their dog to foul any public place and not immediately remove the waste. This applies to almost all public places, including grass verges, pavements, church yards, and public open spaces, regardless of whether or not there are signs or dog bins in the area. The new controls will identify additional areas where stronger controls are required, such as the exclusion of dogs or the requirement for dogs to be on a lead.

Please remember that you can dispose of collected waste in any council bin, it does not have to be a specific Dog Waste bin.

Energy Saving Event

On Tuesday, 23 October there will be an event in Newcastle town centre (around the Guildhall and in Lancaster Buildings) providing advice and guidance on reducing energy usage. The event will run from 10.00 to 3pm. They may be able to help you reduce your energy bills.

Keele Women's Community Choir

The choir meets on a Thursday evening (8pm-9.30pm) on campus during school term times, and the director is Mary Keith. The choir is open to all women associated with Keele. No audition is required. It is all about singing for fun! If you would like to join the choir please contact Rebecca Leach by email at r.leach@appsoc.keele.ac.uk, or visit the website www.keelewomenscommunitychoir.com for more information.

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

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