

## Latest News

**Covid-19** – Life still looks strange following lockdown however it is important to stay up to date with the guidance from the Government ([www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)) and the NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Parish Council will continue to monitor information and advice from local and national sources and post, where applicable, updates on our website ([www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/WAstonParish/](https://www.facebook.com/WAstonParish/)) County Cllr Mark Sutton has advised that the Covid-19 fund is still available to aid community groups, more details can be found here: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/I-can-help/COVID-19-Support-Fund/COVID-19-support-fund.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/I-can-help/COVID-19-Support-Fund/COVID-19-support-fund.aspx)

**Christmas 2020** Sadly, the Parish Council has had to cancel this years' Christmas Light Switch on Event due to Covid-19. We are however, working with St Mary's School about involving the children in a different manner....watch this space!

The lights will be switched on a little earlier this year on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, we would like to spread a little cheer for a bit longer.

It was lovely to see so many rainbows in windows during the first few months of this year, it would be fabulously festive to see some Father Christmas pictures, baby Jesus, Angels, trees or anything else to add some sparkles to festive windows!

If you have any ideas on how we can spread some more cheer then please get in touch.

- Do not approach fast flowing or deep flood water it may be contaminated and you are at risk of drowning.
- Turn off your electricity, gas and water.
- Put valuable possessions upstairs if it is safe to do so
- If your or your family's lives are at risk, phone 999 immediately and follow the advice given by the emergency services.
- For more information visit: [www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk/Know-your-risks/Flooding/Flooding.aspx](http://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk/Know-your-risks/Flooding/Flooding.aspx)

**New Benches** – The Parish Council has installed these stunning remembrance benches in each of the three villages.



THESE DOG BAGS ARE  
PROVIDED FOR YOUR  
CONVENIENCE



PLEASE THINK OF  
OTHERS AND ONLY TAKE  
WHAT YOU NEED NOW

**Dog Poop Bags** - Last

year nearly £700 was spent on dog poop bags for the dispensers and shops. We are finding that more bags are being taken. The Police have been



**Flooding** - We have had some heavy downpours lately. If you experience localised flooding, Staffordshire Prepared advises:

- Get yourself and your family somewhere safe
- Do not drive into flood water

made aware. We are also reducing the number of bags we fill the dispensers up with. Please let us know if you are aware of anyone taking more than they need.

## What the LSWA PC has achieved since May 2019

- Renovated Lapley Green.
- Began the process to add Lapley Green to the Register of Village Greens, including considering what activities should and should not be permitted.
- Renovated the phone box at Lapley Green and turned it in to a defibrillator house
- Installed six defibrillators in the parish and working with St Marys First school to install a seventh.
- Created a great working partnership with the Community First Responders.
- Working closely with St Marys First School and the Church to enable the annual Christmas Event.
- Strengthened links with St Marys First School and already engaging with how we can make a virtual Christmas event work so that the children don't miss out this year.
- Working hard to find alternative ways to hold the Christmas
- Christmas event this year and support all of the community groups to still raise funds with online raffles and tombola.
- Installed a commemorative VE75/VJ75 benches in the Villages.
- Replaced the sand and bark at Marston Field.
- Replaced wooden framing on the play equipment bases.
- Carried out repairs required at the play areas.
- Completed a two-year schedule of tree works highlighted in the latest survey and are committed to another survey being carried out this year. We are paying particular attention to the Oak at Primrose
- Held regular PC/PCSO surgeries before the full PC meeting for people to attend and raise any concerns. These haven't been well attended but served a great purpose when we needed a forum to work with the WASP group around the Christmas period.
- We secured a reduce cost for Ring door bells, there wasn't enough of a demand so we applied for Smart Water instead
- Rolled out Smart Water in the parish and installed signage to advise.
- Responded to the Covid-19 crisis effectively and implemented any polices swiftly to enable the continuation of work and meetings.
- Applied under paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 14 to the Secretary of State for a direction requiring the authority to determine the application to add Birkenshaw Lane to the Definitive Map.
- Lobbied issues with the A5.
- Arranged for a new MPAN to be added for the CCTV and defibrillator at Lapley.
- In the process of creating a map of walks of the parish to be installed at the green in Wheaton Aston after a request to help provide more dog walks.
- Brought a moveable SID (speed indicator device) & installed posts
- Developed a close working relationship with the local Community Speed Watch Team.
- Had work used as an example by SSC for other parishes to use as guidance.
- Implemented a climate and biodiversity policy (possibly we are the first PC locally to do this) We have considered what we can do as a PC.
- Installed bird and bug boxes at the play areas – some of which were vandalised within days.
- Purchased tablets for the councillors to use so we don't have a need to print meeting papers for meetings and information for councillors, to aid our climate change policy.
- Began (and hope to continue) writing articles for the News and Views on how residents can make small changes with big impacts on climate change.
- Ensured that the PC business can continue in the long term absence due to sickness absence of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk
- Liaised with an SCC and part funded work to be carried out along the highway outside Lapley Cemetery to make it more accessible.
- Assisted Support Staffordshire with volunteer groups.
- Agreed to part fund and aid Support Staffordshire to hold a "thank you" celebration for the volunteers in the parish.
- Made donations to voluntary groups such as Community First Responders, local car scheme, Monday lunch club at the village hall.
- Agreed to support SCC in a new project to support volunteers by acting as a mutual contact point for both parties.
- Taken over the maintenance of the WA village green and the land at Primrose Close owned by SSC.
- Made a planter for Stretton and replaced broken ones in Lapley.
- Installed signs so people are aware we have defibrillators in the parish.
- Secured funding to reduce the cost of the smart water for parishioners.
- Installed new notice boards at Lapley and Stretton, & plan a new one for Wheaton Aston.
- Assisted the police with ASB issues.
- Installed new estate fencing at Marston field.
- Heard concerns that people felt worried to use the dog walk due to ASB.
- Completed a DPIA and installed CCTV at Marston field which has reduced ASB.
- Chased and reported numerous highways issues to Staffordshire County Council.
- Liaised with St Mary's church to hire the church to offer wellbeing sessions.
- Welcomed and trained 5 new councillors.
- Worked closely with the church and school to hold a community Christmas event
- We are reviewing the future of Broadholes Lane as the area is under used.
- In the process of developing a new website to meet accessibility requirements.
- Implemented numerous policies to improve services.
- Currently investigating a request for a MUGA. A discussion with St Marys School has been opened about using facilities on their site.
- Working with St Marys School and other local business and the Woodland Trust to plant a tree for each pupil.
- Assisted local groups with a query regarding a right of way in Lapley

## Useful Information

**South Staffordshire District Council** – The Council Offices are now closed to the public and residents should use alternative ways of contacting the Council rather than visiting in person. 'My Account', the Council's online facility, gives residents online access to council services 24/7. You can register or access it at:

[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount)

Email: [info@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:info@sstaffs.gov.uk)

General enquiries: 01902 696000

**Citizens Advice** – Contact Staffordshire South West Citizens Advice Bureau on 03444 111 444

**Voluntary Car Scheme** – The car scheme is now closed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

**Support Staffordshire** – offers charities, voluntary and community groups in Staffordshire support, advice and training on how to set up and run your group, support for volunteers and discounted services. Tel 0300 777 1207 or email to [info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:info@supportstaffordshire.org.uk)

**Damage to the Highway** – Although Staffordshire County Council office are closed to the public, you can report potholes/damaged pavements / problems with lighting columns and road signs on the Staffordshire County Council website, or download the "My Staffs" app, which let you send in photos and locations straight from your phone. If you do go out to take photos, please make sure this is a part of your daily exercise as allowed by Central Government and ensure you keep 2 metre distance from others outside of your household member.

**If you see it, report it!** - If you see a crime in progress, call 999 immediately. Please report non-urgent crime including graffiti, anti-social behaviour, and damage by calling the police on 101. Officers can only investigate matters which are reported.

**Staffordshire Police Smart Alert** - Get free, localised crime alerts and community safety advice with the Staffordshire Smart Alert App. This can be downloaded for both Apple and Android devices at:  
[www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk](http://www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk)

**Crime Prevention / Cybercrime** - There is a wealth of advice on the Staffordshire Police website. For more information, visit:  
[www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/crimeprevention),  
[www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/cybercrime)

**South Staffs Community Lottery** – You could win up to £25,000, and help support local good causes by taking part in the South Staffordshire Community Lottery. This weekly online lottery takes place every Saturday night at 8pm. Tickets can be purchased from 01902 213777 or at [www.southstaffslottery.co.uk](http://www.southstaffslottery.co.uk)



**Garden Waste Collection Service** – You can still sign up for the service:

- £43.60 per green bin for the duration of the scheme year
- This scheme year runs until the end of June 2021
- Permit sticker will be posted to you within 14 days of sign up
- Sign up at [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

**South Staffs Leisure Centres (Penkridge, Codsall, Wombourne & Cheslyn Hay)** –

These are slowly opening up their facilities following the lockdown. More information about memberships can be found at

[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/leisure/memberships)

**South Staffordshire Work Clubs** – Although the work clubs remain closed, you can still get advice. Tel: Val Chapman 07718 911367 or email: [val.chapman3@btinternet.com](mailto:val.chapman3@btinternet.com)

**Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund** - South Staffordshire Council is urging residents to register for the Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund that could save them money on their heating bills. The funding scheme is aimed at residents who are struggling with their heating bills and using expensive electric heaters and open fires. For more information visit [www.staffordshirewarmerhomes.co.uk](http://www.staffordshirewarmerhomes.co.uk).

## Your Council

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W Millington  
R Nelson  
T Noblett (Chair)  
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S Whittingham  
S Whittingham

### WARD

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Wheaton Aston  
Stretton  
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### OFFICE

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Telephone 07495 789051 (Parish Council Manager)/ 07398 743554 (Assistant Clerk)  
Website [www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.wheatonastonparishcouncil.co.uk) Also find us on Facebook

### **Other Key Contacts**

County Councillor Mark Sutton	01902 851682	<a href="mailto:mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk">mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
District Councillor Brian Cox	01785 840482	<a href="mailto:b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk">b.cox@sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
District Councillor Ve Jackson	01785 840256	<a href="mailto:v.jackson@sstaffs.gov.uk">v.jackson@sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
Staffordshire County Council	0300 111 8000	<a href="http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk">www.staffordshire.gov.uk</a>
South Staffordshire District Council	01902 696000	<a href="http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk">www.sstaffs.gov.uk</a>
Police	101 (non-urgent) 999 (emergency)	<a href="http://www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk">www.staffordshirepolice.org.uk</a>
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	<a href="http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org">www.crimestoppers-uk.org</a>
Highways	0300 111 8000	<a href="mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk">highways@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>

### **2020 Parish Council Meetings**

Parish Council meetings are currently being held remotely on Zoom.

- **Thursday 22nd October at 7pm.** The link can be found here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89681758443?pwd=UnJBOFY1V3pvS291TXJQYnVxVVBudz09>

Meeting ID:896 8175 8443 Passcode:148157

- **December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** (precept)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84102273878?pwd=c3g0MjEzdWpva29QcjNVMWFIRVlpZz09>

Meeting ID:841 0227 3878 Passcode:642688

**On a sad note.....** We have installed lots more signs around the villages due to the impact of Covid-19 and also signs to advise that we are a Smart Water secure parish. These signs are a great deterrent to potential burglars as it has been proven that areas who have Smart Water homes aren't targeted as much as those without Smart Water. Sadly, numerous signs have been damaged and the costs keep mounting to repair them. Please report anyone you witness undertaking any form of ASB, its sadly become far to frequent.

**Smart Water** As lockdown began we launched a campaign to get Smart Water out in the parish, we received some funding from South Staffs Council which meant that the kits could be brought at a bargain £7 each. We still have some in stock so if you would like a kit please contact the office.

**STAY SAFE ALL**