

# THE BILBROOK BUZZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL



Photo by Lee Fullard

## BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to the Bilbrook Buzz. This newsletter has been started by Bilbrook Parish Council to engage better with the community it serves and to gauge the interest of residents in forming a Neighbourhood Plan.

A Neighbourhood Plan lets residents have more of a say in the future of Bilbrook. For example, it allows the community to encourage developers to build what our community needs and wants. (such as greater numbers of affordable houses, developments more suited to elderly residents etc.) It also helps set out areas of open spaces to be protected.

To find out more, please follow the link or scan the QR Code below

[www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/](http://www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/)



## Bilbrook Neighbourhood Plan



*The future of Bilbrook is in your hands*





**Save the Date!**

**Bilbrook Community Event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

**Friday 3rd June 2022**



## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE JUNE 2022

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee; seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

The Parish Council has set up a working group to organise a community event to mark the occasion on **Friday 3rd June 2022**. Please email the Parish Council if you are interested in joining the working group, having a stall or providing entertainment.

# WHO DOES WHAT?

## UNDERSTANDING HOW YOUR COUNCIL WORKS...

Local government in South Staffordshire operates under a three-tier system involving the County, District and Parish Councils. The Councils work closely together and with other partners.



Staffordshire County Council covers the whole of the county of Staffordshire. Your county councillor is Cllr B Spencer

Contact about:

- Adult social care
- Blue badges (new and renewal)
- Bus passes
- Childrens' services
- Education
- Footpaths
- Highways maintenance (including potholes, road closures and diversions)
- Household recycling centres
- Libraries
- Parking on street
- Public transport
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages
- Street lighting
- Trading standards
- Weather-related issues
- Waste disposal management (not collection)

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)  
**Tel: 0300 111 8000 (general enquiries)**  
**@yourstaffordshire**

**Adult Social Care:**  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/care](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/care)

**Apply for a blue badge:**  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/bluebadge](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/bluebadge)

**Report a problem directly on the My Staffs App at:**  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mystaffs-app](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/mystaffs-app)

**Highways:**  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit)

**Need to report Highways defects?**  
 (Road/Pavement damage, blocked gully, street/traffic lights not working)

You can via the Staffordshire County Council Website  
[www.bit.ly/SCCHighways](http://www.bit.ly/SCCHighways)



The county is divided into eight districts and South Staffordshire is your district. There are 49 District Councillors in South Staffordshire. Your local councillors are: Cllr G Burnett and Cllr I Sadler

Contact about:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Bereavement services
- Building control
- Business Hub services
- Commercial development/regeneration
- Council Tax/Business Rates
- Elections
- Environmental health
- Fly-tipping
- Food hygiene and safety
- Grounds maintenance (excl. Highways)
- Homelessness prevention
- Housing advice
- Housing benefits/Council Tax support
- Leisure
- Licensing
- Litter, graffiti, fly-posting & dog offences
- Noise nuisance/pollution
- Planning applications/policy
- Planning enforcement
- Road sweeping (routine only)
- Tourism
- Waste and recycling collections

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

**Report a problem online at**  
[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/report-it)  
 Email: [info@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:info@sstaffs.gov.uk)  
 Email: [customerfeedback@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:customerfeedback@sstaffs.gov.uk)

Tel: 01902 696000 (Enquiries)  
[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/myaccount)



**BILBROOK**  
 PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government. There are 27 Parish Councils in South Staffs, of which Bilbrook is one.

Parish Councils form an important part of the local government system, particularly in rural areas ensuring communities like Bilbrook have a voice.

Central Government increasingly recognizes the value of parish councils, who can make decisions and spend money on matters that make a real difference to their local community. Find out more about your local Councillor at [www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk/your-parish-council/council-members/](http://www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk/your-parish-council/council-members/)

Contact about the following within Bilbrook

- Allotments
- Annual Act of Remembrance
- Bilbrook Village Green
- Christmas Light Switch on
- Floral displays
- Jubilee walks
- MUGA (multi-use games area)
- Playpark
- Skate park
- Street furniture (Benches, Bus shelters, Heritage Signs, Noticeboards)
- Outdoor gym equipment
- War memorial

[www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 01902 840007

**PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG**  
**BAG IT AND BIN IT\***  
 OR FACE A FINE OF UP TO £1,000

\*Bags can be put in ANY public litter bin in Bilbrook



# UPGRADE OF BILBROOK PLAYPARK

The Playpark at Bilbrook was installed in 2013. It is well used and popular with local children, however, we want to make it more inclusive to enable children – no matter their ability – to play together. In addition to this, some equipment is starting to look a bit tired and needs renewing or replacing. therefore the Parish Council has decided to upgrade the play Park subject to obtaining funding.

The Parish Council would like to hear from local children, families and schools regarding what you like and don't like about the existing Playpark and what equipment you would like installed. Please follow the link below to complete the full form:

[www.bit.ly/PlayParkConsultation](http://www.bit.ly/PlayParkConsultation) or complete the shortened form below and return it to us at Bilbrook Parish Council, Bilbrook Village Hall, Joey's Lane, Bilbrook, WV8 1JL. The closing date is Sunday 26th September



## 1. What do you think of the current equipment?

	Fantastic	Good	OK	Not Great	Awful	Not Used
1. Cradle Swings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Nest Swing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Roundabout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Climbing Net	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Slide	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Rotator	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. See Saw	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8 Multi-Activity Unit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9 Single Springers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Double springer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Hop-scotch area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Picnic benches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## 2. How can the current equipment be improved? What other equipment would you like to see installed?

## 3. Are you a Bilbrook Resident? Yes/No If yes, in which area of Bilbrook do you live? (Please do NOT give your full address for data protection purposes)

## 4. The age category of the children who use the playpark (tick all that apply)

- 6 to 23 Months
- 2-5 Years
- 7-12
- 13+

## 4. Do any of your children need inclusive equipment? Yes/No

# A Supportive Community

In Bilbrook we are lucky to have several active community groups working to support each other and the community. Below is a list of these community groups with contact details.

## BILBROOK & CODSALL WORK CLUB

Need help getting a job? The work club meet every Wednesday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Trinity Methodist Church, Histons Hill, Codsall  
For more details Tel: 07718 911367,  
email: [staffsworkclubs@gmail.com](mailto:staffsworkclubs@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/south.s.clubs](http://www.facebook.com/south.s.clubs)



## BILBROOK INITIATIVES HUB

Supporting the local community;  
In particular building cross generational links and helping those who are lonely and isolated. [www.bilbrookinitiativeshub.org.uk](http://www.bilbrookinitiativeshub.org.uk)

## FRIENDS OF BILBROOK

A non-profit making community group, whose main aim is to improve the environment and to improve the open spaces around Bilbrook. To find out more visit [www.friendsofbilbrook.org](http://www.friendsofbilbrook.org)



## BILBROOK & CODSALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The group support people with cancer or recovering from it, and their families. They meet the 3rd Friday of every month at Codsall Methodist Church Hall at 10am. Call Angela & Les on 01920 846662 for more details.

## HOLY CROSS CHURCH

The church at the heart of the community. For details of services, support or to hire the church hall, contact them via:  
[www.holycross.bilbrook.info](http://www.holycross.bilbrook.info)





## THE TWENTYMAN PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

The committee manage the booking of Bilbrook Village Hall and Joeys Lane playing fields.  
bilbrookvillagehall@hotmail.com  
07511 339598  
www.bilbrookvillagehall.co.uk

## CODSALL & BILBROOK HISTORY SOCIETY

The society are planning to restart their talks in Codsall Village Hall from October. Visit their new website at [codsallhistory.org](http://codsallhistory.org)



## CODSALL & BILBROOK TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Bilbrook is twinned with St. Pryve St. Mesmin – near Orleans, France. To get involved visit their website [www.codsallbilbrooktwinning.co.uk](http://www.codsallbilbrooktwinning.co.uk)

## CODSALL COMMUNITY ARTS FESTIVAL

The next festival will take place between Monday 28th March and Saturday 9th April 2022. It will shorter than usual however will be packed with your favourite events!

[www.codsallartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.codsallartsfestival.org.uk)  
07852 200 421  
[codsallartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:codsallartsfestival@gmail.com)



Please contact us if you know of any community groups we have missed.



### NEED A HAND?

Are you a local group or organisation bringing a direct benefit to the parish or its residents?

Visit our website for more details

[www.bit.ly/BPCFunding](http://www.bit.ly/BPCFunding)

# GRANT FUNDING







Photo by Lee Fullard

## BILBROOK ALLOTMENTS

There is nothing like growing seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables. When picked and eaten soon after, they are much tastier than shop-bought produce. There are other benefits too:

- Working your plot will keep you physically fit.
- Being in the sunshine is a good source of Vitamin D.
- Being outside is good for your mental health and instils a sense of wellbeing and calm.
- Working your plot with your family can be fun and is an excellent way of bonding with them.
- You will meet other plot holders of a variety of ages and backgrounds.

How much does it cost? The cost from April 2022 will be £20 for the year for a half plot.

How to apply for an allotment? There is currently a waiting list in operation. Please email [clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk) or follow the link below to join the list.

[www.bit.ly/AllotmentWaitingList](http://www.bit.ly/AllotmentWaitingList)

## ROADSIDE VERGES

One topic that the Parish Council receives the most complaints about is the grass verges. Although the grass verges around the Parish are owned by Staffordshire County Council and maintained by South Staffs Council, the Parish Council still has a say in their maintenance.

When we talk about cutting the verges, we divide them into those that are short cut (currently eight times a year) mainly to improve visibility for road users and those that are tall cut (twice a year)

Tall cut verges are left uncut between spring and late summer to allow wildflowers to grow and support an abundance of insects such as bees and butterflies. In Bilbrook four areas have been designated as tall cut verges - Duck Lane, Bilbrook Road, Lane Green Road and Wobaston Road.

Drop us an email and let us know what you think. [clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)



*With over 97% of meadows destroyed since the 1930s, road verges are a vital refuge for pollinators and other wildlife.*



## WELCOME BACK FUNDING

Bilbrook Parish Council were successful in their bid for funding to improve the centre of Bilbrook and make it more welcoming to visitors. The Parish Council has so far used the funding to purchase a bench and plants for the Village Green and is about to embark on a programme of cleaning and weeding the pavements around the centre of the Village.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Parish Council is hoping to run the following events subject to covid-19 regulations allowing:



**Bilbrook Remembrance**  
Sunday 14th November 2021

IN HONOUR AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF BILBROOK PARISH WHO FORGOTTE AND DIED IN DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY, AND FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION.

9:50 am for a prompt 10:00 am start  
Service of Remembrance at Holy Cross Church, Bilbrook

10:45am  
Procession from Holy Cross Church to Bilbrook War Memorial

11:00am  
Act of Remembrance at Bilbrook War Memorial, Bilbrook Village Green

Anyone wishing to lay a wreath at the Act of Remembrance, please contact  
Bilbrook Parish Clerk. Tel: 01902 840007  
or email: [clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## PARISH MEETINGS

Full Parish Council Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm (except in August) at Bilbrook Village Hall

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr M Adams - West Ward  
Cllr S Adams - West Ward (Chairman)  
Cllr M Barrow - East Ward  
Cllr G Burnett - West Ward (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr V Chapman - East Ward  
Cllr A Hill - West Ward  
Cllr D Hutchinson - East Ward  
Cllr P Hutchinson - East Ward  
Cllr S Leedham - West Ward  
Cllr J Michell - East Ward  
Cllr B O'Connor - East Ward  
Cllr G Price - Lane Green Ward  
Cllr D Williams - East Ward

All councillors can be contacted via the Parish Office. (see details on page 8)



## Bilbrook at Christmas

Friday 26th November 2021  
From 6:00pm

Father Christmas  
Fun Fair  
Refreshments  
Stalls

Christmas  
lights to be  
switched on  
by Wolfie!

Bilbrook Village Green

Don't forget to bring your letter to Father Christmas!

Organised by:



## KEY CONTACTS

South Staffordshire District Council  
01902 696000  
[www.sstaffs.gov.uk](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk)

District Cllr G Burnett  
[g.burnett@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:g.burnett@sstaffs.gov.uk)

District Cllr I Sadler  
[i.sadler@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:i.sadler@sstaffs.gov.uk)

Staffordshire County Council  
0300 111 8000  
[www.staffordshire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk)

Staffordshire Highways  
0300 111 8000

County Cllr Bob Spencer  
[bob.spencer@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bob.spencer@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Member of Parliament Gavin Williamson  
[gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk)

## OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

**Staffordshire Police** - 111 for a non-emergency or 999 for an emergency.  
[www.staffordshire.police.uk](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk)

**CrimeStoppers** - report crime anonymously on 0800 555111

**Staffordshire Smart Alert** - Sign up for Police Alerts - [www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk](http://www.staffordshiresmartalert.co.uk)

***Passionate about Bilbrook?  
Want to help make it a better place?  
Got some skills to share and time to spare?***

# **JOIN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**



## **WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?**

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document describing the desired plans for a village over a 5-10 year period and covers those areas the majority of residents feel are important. It covers topics such as housing and development, schooling and amenities, environmental protection, transport and highways. The document requires substantial consultation with everyone in the village. It also involves planning and work to bring it all together.

Once the village has agreed on its content, South Staffordshire District Council must approve it. It is not a way to get property development through and pass unwanted schemes in the village without consultation. Equally, it can not stop development that is already planned.

Due to the work involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan, additional people to Parish Councillors are needed. To work effectively the steering group membership should be between 10 and 15 and ideally reflect the character and diversity of the local population, with people from different places in the area and different sections of the community.

Relevant skills and experience that may be useful to the steering group include:

- project management
- familiarity with the planning system
- community engagement
- marketing, promotion and consultation
- expertise in specific topic areas.  
e.g. planning, transport, the environment.
- writing, editorial, graphic design skills

Follow the link below or scan the QR code to apply to join the working group.

**[www.bit.ly/NDPApply](http://www.bit.ly/NDPApply)**

**Neighbourhood  
planning  
enables  
communities to  
play a much  
stronger role in  
shaping the  
areas in which  
they live.**

