

# THE BILBROOK BUZZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF BILBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

# Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

from the Councillors and Staff of Bilbrook Parish Council



We hope you enjoyed our Christmas Lights Switch-On as much as we did! Thank you for coming!

Thank you to the children of Lane Green First School and Bilbrook Middle School who sang beautifully. It was great to have you back!



Photo by Lee Fullward

## WARM HUB NETWORK IN AND AROUND BILBROOK

A network of "Warm Hubs" has opened across South Staffordshire to provide a safe, welcoming space for anyone struggling with heating costs during the colder winter months. Each location provides a warm space, hot drinks and an opportunity to connect with other members of the local community. To the right are the warm hubs in and around Bilbrook. We also understand that Pendeford Community Hub & Library is a warm hub and is open Monday, Thursday & Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Tuesday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Friday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. To find more warm hubs visit [www.warmwelcome.uk](http://www.warmwelcome.uk)



## COST OF LIVING CRISIS

If you are struggling to pay your energy bills, please contact your energy supplier as soon as possible. Two organisations that you can go to for guidance on debt, housing, benefits, and many other challenges you may face are the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and Staffordshire County Council (SCC). CAB hold a drop-in session at the South Staffordshire Council Offices every Thursday between 9 am and 3 pm. You can find them in the main reception next to the cafe in the Community Hub. Alternatively, you can find advice by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/BPCCAB> SCC has a dedicated cost of living support page on its website which contains tips and information for those who need help <https://orlo.uk/2Dhho>



## Warm Hubs

<p><b>Love &amp; Liquor</b> Codsall</p> <p>Wednesday 9.30am - 12.00pm all ages both men, women and families, dogs welcome too.</p> <p>Heated room, breakfast cereals/toast and warm drinks free of charge.</p>	<p><b>Holy Cross Church Hall</b> Bilbrook</p> <p>Thursday 9.30am - 11.30am all ages welcome.</p> <p>Coffee and a chat.</p>	<p><b>The Church at Perton</b></p> <p>Every weekday 10.00am - 3.00pm</p> <p>for a warm place, a drink and company.</p>	<p><b>Fire Stations in Bilbrook, Wombourne, Penkridge and Kinver</b></p> <p>will be providing warm spaces in the fire stations - watch this space!</p>
<p><b>Bilbrook Initiatives Hub - The Old Vicarage</b> Bilbrook</p> <p>Wednesday 12.00pm - 6.00pm</p> <p>Tuesday 12.00pm - 6.00pm during Dec, Jan, Feb open for all ages and includes soup, crumpets, drinks and a warm place all free of charge.</p>	<p><b>Perton Library</b></p> <p>Every weekday 9.00am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm</p> <p>Saturday 9.00am - 4.00pm</p> <p>Sunday 1.00pm - 4.00pm</p> <p>with refreshments on Wednesday 9.00am - 12.30pm</p> <p>Sunday 1.00 - 3.30pm</p>	<p><b>Methodist Church</b> Codsall</p> <p>runs groups that offer free Wi-Fi, free charging points, and a warm space access for their group members.</p> <p>For more information contact <a href="mailto:sue.trinitybookings@gmail.com">sue.trinitybookings@gmail.com</a> or 01902 847480</p>	

## BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

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

The Parish Council elections take place on Thursday 4th May 2023. Parish Councillors may be stepping down so we will be looking for community-minded individuals to stand as Parish Councillors. Please contact the Parish Council if you are interested. (Details on page 4)



Bilbrook Village Hall Joeyes Lane, Bilbrook, WV8 1JL  
Tel 01902 840007  
Email [clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bilbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/BilbrookParishCouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/BilbrookParishCouncil/)





## CLOSURE OF BILBROOK PLAY GROUP

Bilbrook Parish Council is very saddened by the announced closure of Bilbrook Play Group. The Play Group will be permanently closing on Friday 16th December after over 40 years of providing fun and learning to Bilbrook children. Many of us have fond memories of the "Aunties". This is an extremely sad loss for the Bilbrook Community and we wish everyone involved well for the future.

## LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

### Save Bilbrook Green Belt

The Publication Plan consultation runs until midday on Friday 23rd Dec so there is still time to make your comments to South Staffs Council.



This is the final stage of consultation before the Local Plan is submitted to Government and an independent inspector is appointed to carry out a public examination into the Local Plan's soundness and legal compliance.

Bilbrook Parish Council is urging residents to object to site 519 which proposed 848 new dwellings in Bilbrook. This is more housing than we need and will result in the loss of Bilbrook green belt, and violates Paragraphs 137-151 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

<https://tinyurl.com/SSCLocalPlan>

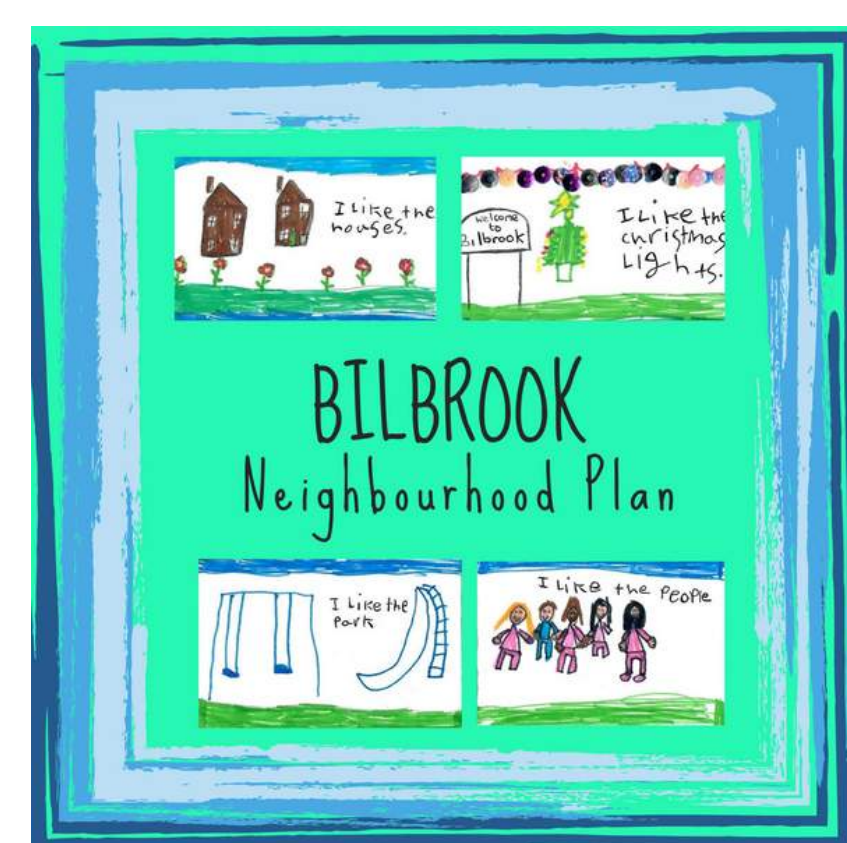
The above link leads to information and additional links to enable comments, all of which must be made in writing before the 23rd December deadline. You can use also the PDF form at the above link. You can also send written comments to [localplans@sstaffs.gov.uk](mailto:localplans@sstaffs.gov.uk) or the Local Plan Team, South Staffs Council, Wolverhampton Rd, Codsall, WV8 1PX.



Key	
	Proposed Site Allocation (519) (min 848 dwellings)
	Greenbelt (approx 581 of the 848 dwellings)
	Safeguarded Land boundary (443)
	Safeguarded Land boundary (209)
	Current Site (443) Allocation Boundary (168 dwellings)
	South Staffs / Wolverhampton Border

## BILBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

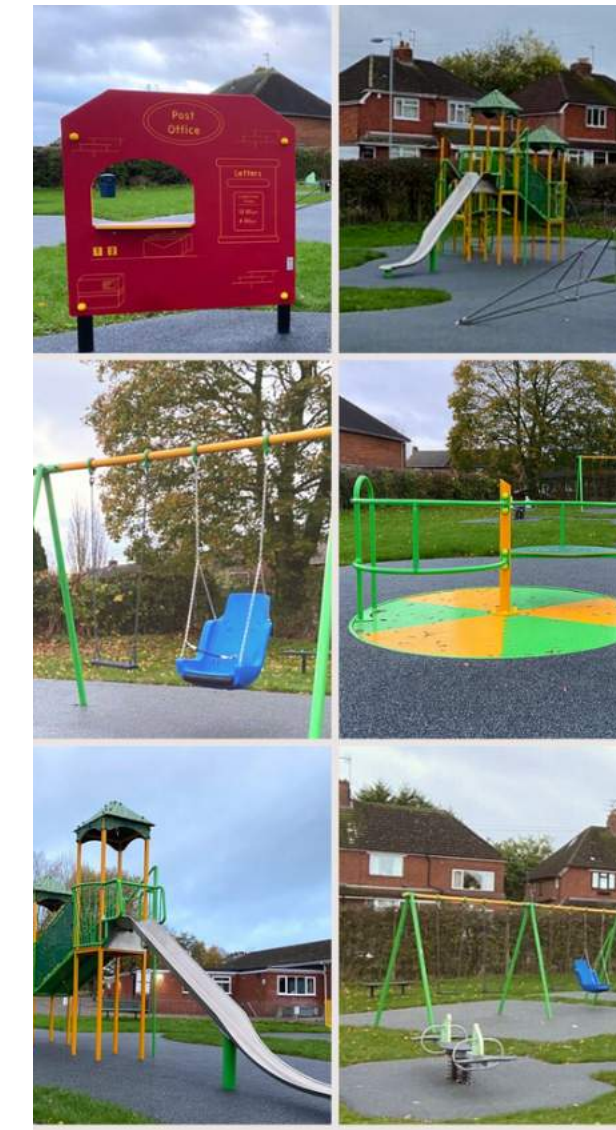
Our Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well and we are currently working on Local Green Space Designations using residents' input from the survey earlier this year.



Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

## PLAYPARK UPGRADE

The play park upgrade is finished and judging by the numbers of children using it, the upgrade has been well received. It's been fantastic to see so many children out with their families and enjoying the new equipment!



## BILBROOK CORONATION CELEBRATION!

Our Jubilee Event for Her Late Majesty last year was a fantastic Community Event. We're hoping that our celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III will be as good and hopefully even better! There will be stalls, entertainment, food and drink, and we invite the whole community to come and have a great time!

Save the date:- Monday 8th May 2023!

If you're a business or Community group that would like a stall, please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/BPCCoronationStalls>.

If you are an Entertainer and would like to perform at the event, please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/BPCCoronationEnt>



## USE OF COVERT CAMERAS

South Staffs Council Environmental Crime & Enforcement officer has asked us to remind everyone that the public should not install covert cameras in an attempt to catch fly-tipping or other criminal activity in a public space. While the sentiment behind it is appreciated, unlicensed media may not be accepted to pursue a prosecution, & may break data protection laws.



## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The Community Speedwatch is now up and running. More volunteers are always needed. Please contact Bilbrook Parish Council If you would like to keep our roads safe.



## IN MEMORY OF PAT QUIRKE



Last Month, Parish Councillors and the family and friends of Bilbrook resident, historian, musician and author Pat Quirke gathered on the Twentyman Playing Fields to lay a plaque and celebrate his life.

## BILBROOK REMEMBRANCE

A big thank you to a local resident who made crocheted poppies for our Bilbrook Remembrance. They looked stunning next to the VE75 Remembrance bench,



Thanks also to the local groups & organisations that laid a wreath in memory of the fallen at the Bilbrook Act of Remembrance



HOLY CROSS CHURCH 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 4)

## 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

## 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)

Bilbrook Medical Centre - 01902 847313

Bilbrook Village Hall bookings: 07511 339598

Holy Cross Church Hall bookings: 01902 212405

## QUICK LINKS

No. 5 Bus timetable - <https://tinyurl.com/Bilbrook5>

South Staffs Council Blue Bags - <https://bit.ly/37y6AdP>

Report a pothole - <https://bit.ly/SCCHighways>

Allotment waiting list - <https://bit.ly/AllotmentWaitingList>

News on Bin Collections - [www.sstaffs.gov.uk/waste](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/waste)

What's on Codsall Library - <https://tinyurl.com/CodsallLibrary>

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?  
PLEASE LET US KNOW FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE.

