

Bilbrook Parish Council
Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 7:00 pm
at Bilbrook Village Hall

Minutes

CLRs Present: M Adams, S Adams (Chairman), S Bailey, G Burnett (Vice-Chair), B Coppola, F Hopkins, D Hutchinson, P Hutchinson, S Leedham.

Also Present: K Daker (Parish Clerk) County Cllr Bob Spencer.

The meeting commenced at pm - Standing Orders were imposed, and the meeting was recorded for minute-taking purposes.

049/24 APOLOGIES: A Lloyd, S Keogh, G Price. (**Appendix 1**).

050/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

Dispensation requests – None. Dispensations previously granted (**Appendix 2**):

Declarations of Interests: None.

051/24 MINUTES

a) The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on the 4th September 2024, having previously been distributed were **signed as a true and correct record**.

b) The draft minutes of the Allotments Committee of the 16th September 2024 were **received and noted**.

052/24 POLICE MATTERS - *The Council acknowledges its duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (S17) to consider the crime and disorder implications of its functions and to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in Bilbrook.* **Matter of Report**: The police report (**appendix 3**) was discussed. Concerns were raised that some crimes did not appear to be on the report. A discussion took place on starting a business watch.

053/24 REPORTS – The following reports were **received and noted**. (**See Appendix 4**):

- a. Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
- b. South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC)
- c. The Twentyman Playing Fields Association.
- d. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.
- e. Events Working Group.
- f. Open Spaces Working Group.
- g. Bank's Field Working Group.
- h. Young People Engagement Working Group.
- i. Climate Change Action Group.
- j. Canal & River Trust Representative.

054/24 CLERKS REPORT/OTHER CORRESPONDENCE/DISCUSSION TOPICS.

a. The Clerks Report – The report was **received and noted**. (**Appendix 5**).

055/24 FINANCE & APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

a. Financial Reports – 2024-2025 – The monthly reports to the 30th September 2024 were **received and noted**. (**Appendix 6**). **Matter of Report**: Cllr Burnett has checked and signed the Bank reconciliation to the 30th September 2024.

b. Clerk's Timesheet – The chairman confirmed their approval of the clerk's timesheet.

c. Grant Request from Holy Cross Church – **Resolved**: Approved

d. Parish online Subscription – **Resolved**: Approved

e. Wicksteed Quote for repairs to the wetpour - **Resolved**: Approved

056/24 PLANNING –

Application No: [24/00793/OUTM](#)

Proposal: Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except primary means of vehicular access from Pendeford Mill Lane, Lane Green Road and Barnhurst Lane) for the demolition of existing buildings, construction of up to 750 dwellings, a First School, up to 75 units of specialist older persons accommodation and a Local Centre (up to 1,000sqm of commercial/community floorspace including up to 500sqm of retail provision), as well as associated access, drainage, green and blue infrastructure, ground remodelling and ancillary infrastructure.

Location: Land East of Bilbrook, Bilbrook, South Staffordshire

Decision: Strongly Objects – **(Appendix 7)**

057/24 POLICIES

New Policies

- Investment and Reserves Policy (As recommended by the Internal Audit) – **Resolved:** Approved however it was noted that the safety of public money was of the utmost importance.

Resolved to extend the meeting past 9pm.

Cllr Coppolla left the meeting.

Policies for Review

- Allotments Policy – Approved

058/24 ITEMS FOR FUTURE – Allotments extension, purchase of Homes Plus garages.

059/24 NEXT MEETING - Meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Bilbrook Village Hall.

Resolved: to exclude the Press and Public.

The meeting was suspended at 9:12 pm.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

In pursuance of the powers contained in section 1 of the above Act, I move that the press and public be now excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the business about to be transacted is of a confidential nature and that publicity will be prejudicial to the public interest.

The meeting continued at 9:12 pm.

CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA ITEM

060/24 Clerks Hours - Resolved: Approved to work an extra 5 hours a week until further notice.

The meeting closed at 9:14 pm

Signed: Dated:

Appendix 1 – Councillor Attendance (Rolling 12 months)

Meeting Date / Councillor	M Adams	S Adams	R Armitage	S Bailey	G Burnett	B Coppola	F Hopkins	D Hutchinson	P Hutchinson	S Keogh	S Leedham	A Lloyd	G Price	D Williams	Total Attending
01 Nov 2023	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	✓	✓	✓	✓	13
06 Dec 2023	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	✓	✓	A	✗	10
03 Jan 2024	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	✓	✓	✓	✓	12
07 Feb 2024	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	✓	✓	✓	✗	11
06 Mar 2024	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	✓	✓	✓	✗	11
03 Apr 2024	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	A	✓	A	A	10
01 May 2024	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	A	✓	✓	✗	10
05 Jun 2024	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	%	✓	A	✓	✗	9
03 Jul 2024	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	%	✓	A	A	✗	6
04 Sep 2024	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	%	12
02 Oct 2024	✓	✓	%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	%	9
Total Attendance	14	14	7	12	14	13	13	12	12	1	12	11	9	3	

Key

- ✓ In Attendance
- A Apologies
- % Not in Office
- ✗ No Apologies

Appendix 2– Dispensations previously granted.

- Cllrs M Adams, S Adams, S Bailey, G Burnett, D Hutchinson, and P Hutchinson to speak and vote on matters relating to the Twentyman Playing Fields Association.
- Cllr A Lloyd to speak on matters relating to the Friends of Bilbrook,
- Cllr S Leedham to speak on matters relating to the Bilbrook Initiative hub.

Appendix 3: South Staffordshire Police - Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Parish Report

Disclosure Declaration: Public bodies can only disclose information if they have the power to do so. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act provides a power to exchange information where disclosure is necessary to support the local Crime Reduction Strategy and Partnership in achieving the aims of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and objectives outlined within it. The degree of disclosure that takes place must be proportionate and relevant to the level of social ill or criminality it is intended to counter or prevent. The information is only to be processed in relation to crime and disorder purposes. Information will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and any other relevant legislation governing disclosures and will ultimately be disposed of in a secure manner.

Parish: **Bilbrook**. Date range: 03/10/2023 - 02/10/2024

Reported Crime Statistics

Overall crime has decreased by 6% over the 12-month reporting period – It is worth noting that all crime has reduced consistently for the period of April 2024 – present date

Burglary Residential – Burglary offences remain extremely low – 2 offences this year:

January – April = 0 offences

May = 1 offence – Off of Wesley Road

April = 0 offences -

June = 1 offences – Off of Watery Lane

July – September = 0 offences

Burglary Business and Commercial: - Burglary business offences remain extremely low – Only one offence this year (Bilbrook Road)

Vehicle Crime – Theft from Motor Vehicle – Slight increase – although realistically, has remained stable (1% change) January – 0 offences, February – 1 offence – off Bilbrook Road, May – 2 offences – Bilbrook Rd and Duck Lane, June -1 offence – Bilbrook Rd, July – 0 offences, August - 1 offence – Watery Lane

Vehicle Crime – Theft of Motor Vehicle – This crime type has seen a decrease of -33% owing to our increased pro activity and the support of specialist resources – There has only been one offences this year!

Robbery – 0 offences – none recorded.

Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour

12 Month Change: 30% decrease. January = 3 reports, February = 1 report, March = 1 report, April = 0 report, May = 1 reports, June = 1 report, July = 4 reports, August = 3 reports, September = 5 reports. The main instances of reports ASB remain within the area of Brookfield Road and range from inconsiderate parking, neighbour disputes, youth related ASB and occasional report of scrambler bikes.

News of Note: We have worked intensively with our community safety partnership to encourage victims of domestic violence to have confidence to report, as a result of our work over the past 12 months we have seen an increase in historic reporting but importantly a reduction in repeat victims. We have also seen an increase in our success at bringing offenders to justice – something the partnership is extremely proud of.

Kindest regards, CI Tim Norbury

PCSO Frances Taylor - Email: France.taylor@staffordshire.police.uk

PCSO Matthew Taylor - Email: matthew.taylor@staffordshire.police.uk

Helpful Links:

Volunteers are being sought for community Speed Watch Schemes in all areas, further information can be found by visiting: <http://www.staffsaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch>
Keep updated on what is occurring within your communities and receive regular Smart Alert updates for your area via email/text please visit and register for free: <https://staffordshiresmartalert.uk/staffs/>

Social Media:

Facebook - @Staffordshire Police & @South Staffordshire Police

X (Twitter) - @SStaffsPolice

Please feel free to encourage residents to report incidents via our 'Live Chat' service accessible on our website: <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk> this is an alternative to the 101 telephone reporting service where timely delays can often be exp

Appendix 4: Reports

a) Staffs County Council by County Cllr B Spencer

- No 5 Bus – concerns were raised that the Banga bus is sometime not turning up.
- £8 million extra has been spent on the highways.
- Flooding – After the unprecedented rain, 4 sites previously identified held up well in the floods.
- Acacia Crescent flooding of a house passed to Cllr Spencer.
- Work on Dam Mill speed reduction should start soon.
- SEN provision is an issue in the area however the local schools have stepped up to the challenge.
- There is funding available via the Climate Action Fund.

b) South Staffs District Council - by District Cllr G Burnett.

- There are still some street scene hours left. This should be used for the bollards on the verges.
- Schools – Sensory rooms. Clerk to write to ask how the Sensor rooms are progressing.
- There is a new leader of the District Council.
- Homes Plus – The issues are many issues.
- South Staff Council has celebrated 50 years old. Friends of Bilbrook won one award and one of their young volunteers won another one.

c) The Twentyman Playing Field Association

- Singo event was not as popular as usual but still made a profit.
- There was damage to the CCTV on Saturday night.
- The hall was flooded.

d) The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

- District have returned their comments.

e) Events Working Group

- No report. The next meeting will take place on the 13th September at 10:30am

f) Open Spaces Working Group

Playpark –

- Play park gate has been fixed.
- Some wet pore has lifted, KD to check if it is covered under the guarantee
- tape used to mark corners on accessible bench not sticking, decision taken to paint it yellow.
- all issues raised at Health and Safety assessment low risk.

skate park

- large sign is in place, smaller signs to be put up.
- issues raised at Health and Safety assessment to be addressed and completed in conjunction with Wheaton Aston skate park repairs.
- Operatives have painted the bench and the bin.

MUGA

- Wickstead have been contacted to purchase correct colour paint
- New noise cancelling bolt covers to be purchased to replace missing covers
- Health and Safety assessment requires more overhanging branches to be removed to avoid build-up of moss on the court. Quote from SSDC tree services.
- Operatives to sweep moss off court

Trees

- The Forest of Mercia will replace dead trees over the winter
- Other quotes needed for tree work required on Twentyman's playing field

Planters

- Events committee to plant up the war memorial
- Planters on village green require dead heading and topping up with compost, new hyacinth bulbs to be planted
- Triangle by Rainbows too to be planted with hardy geraniums for ground cover
- Snakes Head Fritillary bulbs to be planted on village green

Wildflower beds

- The Friends of Bilbrook will take on the planting of the wildflower beds in front of Dominos from Jan 2025

Jubilee Walks

- The Hera fencing has been removed from the entrance opposite Pendeford Business Park
- Old Map boards to be removed by operatives

Bus shelters

- VDU installed but not live yet

Sign posts

- New signs installed by SSDC on Lane Green Road, Bilbrook Road, Duck Lane, Lawn Lane and Pendeford Mill Lane

g) Banks' Field Working Group

- A meeting is due.
- Staffordshire Mammal Group carried out a bat survey on 12th September. Four Species were identified: Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, Brown Long Eared Bat and Noctule.

h) Young People Engagement Working Group.

- Members should be back in the High School on Oct 10th to meet their Youth Council.

i) Climate Change Action Group

- There was not a meeting in September. The next meeting is the 23rd October. The Thermal imaging camera will be brought by Kinver PC.
- Application submitted for funding to buy an air pollution monitor.

j) Canal & River

- No report

Appendix 5: Clerk's Report for the October 2024 Meeting

General

- SCC Climate Action Fund - Funding for an air pollution monitor and plants submitted.
- Email sent to SCC Highways requesting removals of the barriers near new bus shelter on Duck Lane.
- Meeting with Bloor homes and SSDC regarding sports facilities funding.
- Email received from Severn Trent regarding the state of the access road to the Bilbrook Treatment works. Legal Services have reviewed the transfer documentation and there is no obligation for the Parish Council to improve the road. Severn Treat have since re-tarmacked the road.
- Flooding reported around Bilbrook Village on Saturday 21st September.

Maintenance

- Weeding –
- Gate on play park repaired
- New Village signs installed by SSDC
- Damage to changing room doors repaired

Items emailed to Councillors.

- SPCA Bulletins
- Parish Council News roundup
- CPRE - Planning Training for Parish Councils
- Village Name Signs
- Village Centre Improvement Fund & UKSPF Residual
- Visit to land South of the Bloor Homes development

On-going Matters

- Banks Field. –Pasture Pump Kit has arrived and has been passed to the farmer to be installed.
- Bollards for the verges – to be ordered.

Planning decisions outside of meetings: None

Planning decisions Issued by SSC Planning Dept: none

Training: None

Upcoming diary dates:

14th Nov - Parish Summit

Use of delegated powers: None

Website/Facebook Posts

- Various Police Community Messaging Alerts
- South Staffs Council News
- Various lost property posts
- Libraries Newsletter
- Bloor homes planning application
- Do you live in Bilbrook
- New signs
- Bollards on the Village green.
- Menopause Meet-up
- Climate Action Group & various climate related posts

Appendix 6: Finance Reports

Paid Expenditure Transactions

Start of year 01/04/24

paid between 01/09/24 and 30/09/24

Payment	Reference	Paid date	Tn no	Order no	Gross	Vat	Net	Details	Heading
	fpcc1240926	26/09/24	142		£1,584.28	£0.00	£1,584.28	Clear Councils	Insurance 130/1
	ddtt240926	26/09/24	143		£49.96	£8.33	£41.63	TalkTalk Business Ltd	Broadband 110/1/1
	ddidm240926	26/09/24	144		£5.00	£0.83	£4.17	ID Mobile	Mobile Phone 110/1/2
	ddwp240926	26/09/24	145		£38.37	£0.00	£38.37	Water Plus	Allotments Water 180/1
	fpcom240927	26/09/24	146		£149.52	£24.92	£124.60	Computers	Monthly IT 130/8
	fpds240927	26/09/24	147		£997.00	£166.17	£830.83	Ditton Services	Grounds Maintenance 170/3/1
	fptpf240926	26/09/24	148		£400.00	£0.00	£400.00	Twentyman Playing Fields	Office Rent and Hall Hire 115/2
	fpkde240926	26/09/24	149		£50.12	£2.66	£47.46	005	005 Expenses 170/99
	fprse240926	26/09/24	150		£53.99	£9.00	£44.99	001	Expenses 170/2
	fptle240926	26/09/24	151		£22.61	£3.77	£18.84	013	Expenses 180/4
	fpqh240926	26/09/24	152		£2.75	£0.00	£2.75	P Hutchinson	Expenses 110/4
	fpma240926	26/09/24	153		£70.46	£4.75	£65.71	M Adams	Expenses 170/11
	fpmag240926	26/09/24	154		£315.00	£52.50	£262.50	Magnus Industrial Supplies	Weed matting 180/3/2
	fpmag240926	26/09/24	155		£45.54	£7.59	£37.95	Magnus Industrial Supplies	Workman's boots 170/99
	ddico240926	26/09/24	156		£35.00	£0.00	£35.00	Information Commissioner	Annual Subscription 130/5
	fpswf240926	26/09/24	157		£42.00	£0.00	£42.00	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Ltd	Annual Subscription 140/5
	fpmaz240627	26/09/24	158		£504.00	£84.00	£420.00	Mazars LLP	External Audit 130/3
	fpjlr240926	26/09/24	159		£260.02	£43.34	£216.68	JLR Training	Manual Handling/working at Heights- 120/1/1
					£4,625.62				
					£3,892.76				
					Confidential				
Total					£8,518.38	£407.86	£8,110.52		

Received Income Transactions

Start of year 01/04/24

received between 01/09/24 and 30/09/24

Paying	Received	Tn no	Invoice	Gross	Vat	Net	Heading	Details
dc240924ssc	26/09/24	24014		£52,500.00	£0.00	£52,500.00	10	South Staffordshire Council 1st 50% Precept
dc24090220b	26/09/24	24015		£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	50/1	Allotment Holders Plot 20b
dc240902bar	26/09/24	24016		£123.93	£0.00	£123.93	70	Barclays Bank Interest
Total				£52,653.93	£0.00	£52,653.93		

Financial Statement - Cashbook

Statement of receipts and payments between 01/04/24 and 30/09/24 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Business Premium Account	£33,015.20
Community Account	£41,674.76
Equals Pre-Payment Card	£300.00
Nationwide Building Society Instant Save	£86,767.90
Total	£161,757.86

RECEIPTS Net (£)	Vat (£)	Gross (£)	
10 Precept 105,000.00	0.00	105,000.00	
20 VAT Repayment	6,919.93	0.00	6,919.93
50 Allotments Income	110.00	0.00	110.00
60 Grants / Donations	960.00	0.00	960.00
70 Bank Interest - Barclays	247.40	0.00	247.40
90 Other Income	2,101.61	0.00	2,101.61
Total Receipts	115,338.94	0.00	115,338.94

PAYMENTS	Net (£)	Vat (£)	Gross (£)
100 Staff Costs	23,597.17	0.00	23,597.17
110 Administration	1,988.49	391.96	2,380.45
115 Office/Hall Rent	2,100.00	0.00	2,100.00
120 Personnel Cost (Training/travel)	333.93	56.34	390.27
130 Insurance / Audit / Legal Services	5,994.03	681.27	6,675.30
140 Subscriptions	672.00	0.00	672.00
160 Grants/Donations	1,936.46	0.00	1,936.46
170 Open Spaces	12,118.51	2,384.50	14,503.01
180 Allotments	653.07	54.27	707.34
185 Community Engagement	168.75	1.75	170.50
190 Christmas Lights Switch on	745.29	37.26	782.55
210 Climate Action Group	90.00	0.00	90.00
Total Payments	50,397.70	3,607.35	54,005.05

Statement of receipts and payments between 01/04/24 and 30/09/24 inclusive. This may include

Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

Business Premium Account	£33,262.60
Community Account	£102,761.25
Equals Pre-Payment Card	£300.00
Nationwide Building Society Instant Save	£86,767.90
Total	£223,091.75

Uncleared and Unpresented effects

Statement Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

Business Premium Account	£33,262.60
Community Account	£102,761.25
Equals Pre-Payment Card	£300.00
Nationwide Building Society Instant Save	£86,767.90
Total	£223,091.75

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/24 and 30/09/24 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/24

		2024/25 Budget	Actual Net	Balance
INCOME				
10	Precept	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	£0.00
20	VAT Repayment	£0.00	£6,919.93	£6,919.93
30	Solar Farm	£2,990.00	£0.00	-£2,990.00
40	Land Rent	£2,430.00	£0.00	-£2,430.00
50	Allotments Income	£880.00	£110.00	-£770.00
60	Grants / Donations	£0.00	£960.00	£960.00
70	Bank Interest - Barclays	£0.00	£247.40	£247.40
80	Bank Interest Nationwide	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
90	Other Income	£5,901.00	£2,101.61	-£3,799.39
Total Income		£117,201.00	£115,338.94	-£1,862.06
EXPENDITURE				
100	Staff Costs	£58,271.00	£23,597.17	£34,673.83
110	Administration	£5,070.00	£1,988.49	£3,081.51
115	Office/Hall Rent	£4,950.00	£2,100.00	£2,850.00
120	Personnel Cost (Training/travel)	£1,300.00	£117.25	£1,182.75
130	Insurance / Audit / Legal Services	£5,340.00	£5,994.03	-£654.03
140	Subscriptions	£1,160.00	£672.00	£488.00
150	Elections	£2,500.00	£0.00	£2,500.00
160	Grants/Donations	£4,000.00	£1,936.46	£2,063.54
170	Open Spaces	£20,342.00	£12,118.51	£8,223.49
180	Allotments	£880.00	£653.07	£226.93
185	Community Engagement	£3,950.00	£168.75	£3,781.25
190	Christmas Lights Switch on	£10,996.00	£745.29	£10,250.71
200	Remembrance Day	£170.00	£0.00	£170.00
210	Climate Action Group	£700.00	£90.00	£610.00
220	Young People Engagement	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
240	Misc / Contingency	£4,400.00	£0.00	£4,400.00
300	Reserves (Ring Fenced)	£66,466.00	£0.00	£66,466.00
Total Expenditure		£192,495.00	£50,181.02	£142,313.98
Total Income		£117,201.00	£115,338.94	-£1,862.06
Total Expenditure		£192,495.00	£50,181.02	£142,313.98
Total Net Balance		-£75,294.00	£65,157.92	

Bank Reconciliation - Barclays Community Account	
At 30/09/24	
Balance per Cash Book	£ <u>102,761.25</u>
Plus unpresented cheques	
	<u>0.00</u>
Less uncleared payments into bank	
Balance Per Bank Statement	<u>102,761.25</u>

Bank Reconciliation - Barclays Business Account	
At 30/09/24	
Balance per Cash Book	£ <u>£ 33,262.60</u>
Plus unpresented cheques	
	<u>0.00</u>
Less uncleared payments into bank	
	<u>0.00</u>
Balance Per Bank Statement	<u>33,262.60</u>

Bank Reconciliation - Nationwide Instant Saver Issue 5	
At 30/09/24	
Balance per Cash Book	£ <u>£ 86,767.90</u>
Plus unpresented cheques	
	<u>0.00</u>
Less uncleared payments into bank	
	<u>0.00</u>
Balance Per Bank Statement	<u>86,767.90</u>

Other Balances	
Equal	<u>300.00</u>
Total Balances	<u>223,091.75</u>

Appendix 7 – Response to planning application 24/00793/OUTM

Bilbrook Parish Council strongly objects to Planning Application 24/00793/OUTM as it does not believe it is needed in Bilbrook. The Parish Council has previously stated and still maintains that the land safeguarded for development under the current local plan (sites 209 and 443) is sufficient for the needs of Bilbrook and no extra land should be taken out of the greenbelt. Other objections to the application and the grounds for objecting are: Planning Policy Conflict with the local plan - The Parish Council questions why parts of the development are in greenbelt land outside of the safeguarded land (Site 443)

Special Designations

Destroying archaeological remains - The parish council requests that the Historic Environment Officer Archaeology's recommendation for an archaeological evaluation be undertaken given the scale of the development.

Site Considerations

Over Development - The development will make excessive demands on infrastructure and services. The local infrastructure is already at capacity with schools, doctors and dentists unable to take new patients. E.g. Residents who have recently moved in Bilbrook are unable to register with Bilbrook Surgery and have been to register with Brewood surgery. 750 new homes would increase the strain on these services. - The road junctions around the village are already unable to cope with the volume of traffic. (discussed later)

- Bilbrook now only has one bus and one train per hour and we are struggling to keep these! - School organisation has commented that Codsall High School cannot cope. - Western power has stated that there may not be enough power to provide each house with an EV charger.

Excessive bulk or scale - The proposed development will nearly double the size of the population of Bilbrook.

Loss of important trees, hedges, or other vegetation - The Parish Council is concerned by the loss of hedgerow on Pendeford Mill Lane to provide a traffic island route into the new development. Also, the planned cycle and footway along Lane Green Road will also see the removal of a large stretch of established hedge. The Parish Council asks that the hedge remain, and the cycle path be inside the hedge on the development itself, this would be much more pleasant for those using it and would save the hedge.

Public sewers inadequate - The Severn Trent sewage works storm overflow spilled 36 times in 2022 for a total of 227.13 hours discharging raw sewage into the Moat Brook. There were also treated sewage discharges into the Brook. This implies that the treatment works at Bilbrook cannot cope with the current number of dwellings, let alone new ones. The Parish Council requests an independent report on this.

Risk of flooding or creation of flood risk - The surface drainage of Bilbrook Mill is already a problem. There are already areas prone to flooding on Lane Green Road, Pendeford Mill Land and Barnhurst Lane. The Floor Risk Assessment states the land in the south part of the development is a moderate to high flood risk.

Loss of high-quality agricultural land - 27% of the land is Grade 2 agricultural land and should be remain as farming land.

Neighbours

Overlooking adjoining properties -The Parish Council asks that should the development proceed that the developers consider the positioning of houses next to existing properties and where possible avoid them over overlooking these properties and avoid blocking natural daylight.

Generating noise, disturbance, smells, pollution - The Parish Council also asks that the developers are considerate of existing residents should the build be approved and proceed.

Surrounding Area Road system is inadequate and Prejudice highway safety

- The Woodman Junction (where Pendeford Mill Lane meets Duck Lane, Lane Green Road and Bilbrook Road) is already very dangerous for those in vehicles, cyclist and pedestrians. With increased traffic from the development, it will only get worse. The improvement to the Junction proposed by Bloor Homes of raising the level of the junction, is completely inadequate. There is a clear need for this junction to have a traffic Island.

- The proposed island in Pendeford Mill Lane is very close to the existing access road, Marshall Way. The Marshall Way entrance could be adapted to give access to the new development. The Parish Council recommends that the Island is sited at the current Marshall Way entrance. Another benefit with it being closer to the village would be that it would act as a calming measure on a road notorious for speeding.

- Residents on Lane Green Road report issues currently with accessing their driveways safely due to the volume of traffic at busy times, this will only get worse with all the extra vehicles. There are also several properties on Lane Green that do not have adequate off street parking therefore Lane Green Road is not suitable for an access road to the site.

-In addition to this, the nearby junction of Barnhurst Lane with Pendeford Mill Lane is dangerous. Siting the Island on Pendeford Mill Lane is unlikely to improve the situation and may possibly make it worse. The Parish Council has previously raised with the developer that the Island is in the wrong place and is very disappointed that their local knowledge of the site has been ignored in this planning application.

- it is noted that there are recommendations for improvements to junctions on Histons Hill and Birches Bridge, however these are a distance from the development, are not in Bilbrook and therefore should be of lowest priority.

Conflict with the character of the area

Bilbrook is a small rural village in Staffordshire. The development will make it into a small town and almost join it to the West Midlands conurbation taking away it's village charm. Environmental damage caused by vehicles

- One of the main justifications for the development is that it is near to train and bus routes, but then they are building an access road off Lane Green Road which will encourage the use of cars. This will bring more air pollution along Lane Green Road. To encourage active travel and given the size of the development, vehicle access should be taken from the existing site off Pendeford Mill Lane. The Parish Council would like clarification on the non-vehicle access from the site as it is not clear from the plans.

- Traffic congestion at peak times is already a problem on Pendeford Mill Lane. Existing air quality monitors show increasing levels of pollution year on year yet none of the air quality tests appear to take into consideration the increased pollution levels caused by the extra queueing traffic that the new development will bring.

Failure to meet housing needs - In work undertaken by Bilbrook Parish Council for our emerging Neighbourhood Plan, Bilbrook residents told us that there is a strong requirement for smaller affordable homes, down-sizing options, and homes that are suitable for the elderly and disabled within Bilbrook Parish.

The Parish Council asks that South Staffs Council as the principal planning authority to insist that homes built consider the needs of Bilbrook residents including: - Bungalows and other properties enabling an ageing population to downsize. - Properties for first time buyers and that these properties be given to people with a connection to Bilbrook. - that the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain proposed for the site be on communal land and not on private land E.g. planting in private gardens which residents have subsequently removed. - No homes are built with drives onto Lane Green Road / Pendeford Mill Lane or Barnhurst Lane.