**INGESTRE & TIXALL NEWS**

 September 2021

INGESTRE WITH TIXALL PARISH COUNCIL

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**PARISH NEWS**

**Parish Council Meetings:** in line with the latest Government advice, all Parish Council meetings will take place, face to face, in Tixall Village Hall.

. **Latest update on HS2**

It has been somewhat quiet over the summer months and there is not much to share in relation to HS2. You can continue to monitor progress by:

* Visiting [**www.hs2instaffordshire.co.uk**](http://url8988.commonplace.is/ls/click?upn=nSX9oJDE2dLgmKTcQYJRqodeMckxmaUSz7jrJB9X3Mb73u4VKPVfNhHJZgf8wevKaeuboLYfhWeA6S6J5yOPlW1Z7Z7H2J76Ry2wGzMdB1YFWrxlv5UtgLi5kZd8Q4nUXlir_C88KuJM82rdctDmihnjpMcl8WhuVGNN9v7JgUgG2Z6byiZPNXaNYO3YUURUjWieqFqxB3HrlM7sNv9nb5iJFEQJFJihtvwtNQ91-2FhmINZT3U6ar7z8HejDXN5uLXkV1tQtmt2mDYI-2FtQxTqxcwmt7iKFXJohTWAX0cBGYqjAJjzzvHxUtEfaK-2FoXXg7gxEF1hGNeDnR40AUWeibiVvQMEBe9zvbAaJuBNWbyVA4wF4s66I5s6hWCBFRCTLjWhYQkPvt-2FYhd7XPnx4JGDKo97eOj-2Bx-2FYJ9GE-2BJI1qjzPxKb1DmTFldeMmIc27vHWm6LslZ4Ntz3UZMNlzhEJpcp9OdXn9Sxwa5gz6qk5gOS3MsKIrOkSjIALRC9xM5DMhGfwZVuDQLMwxi93kO8U2VBlS4Iv6WvOUqf6YRycKv-2FLeKx0-3D) for the latest updates on the planning and delivery HS2 in your area.
* Use our [**In your area map**](http://url8988.commonplace.is/ls/click?upn=nSX9oJDE2dLgmKTcQYJRqodeMckxmaUSz7jrJB9X3MYbOwcQK-2F3KkvHofFqhNztU-2BdBNodeZULSUR4VQGV0-2FhQ-3D-3DCOo4_C88KuJM82rdctDmihnjpMcl8WhuVGNN9v7JgUgG2Z6byiZPNXaNYO3YUURUjWieqFqxB3HrlM7sNv9nb5iJFEQJFJihtvwtNQ91-2FhmINZT3U6ar7z8HejDXN5uLXkV1tQtmt2mDYI-2FtQxTqxcwmt7iKFXJohTWAX0cBGYqjAJjzzvHxUtEfaK-2FoXXg7gxEF1hGNeDnR40AUWeibiVvQMEHmYzmv5WEH-2FygfDSupEIzklQLRxhF0xPOqM4cl-2BqLynwsv6EMZLayJNGlmI-2B-2Fj1IYjh-2BOlRolpcvhFRGhYsNHsDrP4Bmm9eopcdiJ59xp6HlaN97NgO3OUd2-2BEBhiIbGpFFVZJKhvAkNY4hfWjzsu1L-2B2wfuYQVEzWrVKY08seTLMXIoR-2F18kJF8JLikA-2FWw0CPDvzieMIaOzlTMQFYUko-3D) for information about current and planned HS2 works taking place in your area.
* Make sure you are [**subscribed to our email mailing lists**](http://url8988.commonplace.is/ls/click?upn=nSX9oJDE2dLgmKTcQYJRqsgnHCNlxPH6n9ST7xfoG7UfVYyd-2Bc3yNw0TgQyjXYoTcnT0IwEfu3OvBy41srBI0w-3D-3DqKGj_C88KuJM82rdctDmihnjpMcl8WhuVGNN9v7JgUgG2Z6byiZPNXaNYO3YUURUjWieqFqxB3HrlM7sNv9nb5iJFEQJFJihtvwtNQ91-2FhmINZT3U6ar7z8HejDXN5uLXkV1tQtmt2mDYI-2FtQxTqxcwmt7iKFXJohTWAX0cBGYqjAJjzzvHxUtEfaK-2FoXXg7gxEF1hGNeDnR40AUWeibiVvQMEJFH0-2Fobu8PxwOkLuasIkA-2BMHnFCObw1hWh1ptSgarmrIlai2FhT9aYt8lrn-2FuKu01LolF3NCwzDQUYrq-2FPaSKeUAq0e0mwqDAjVXCvhR1KGj6F2lhbSRdjYG5Wiv067Tx6mSyvCzNfqKW-2FPrwlPcrkQkOUn6Tzr2OEr6-2B-2BQBprYIqNfsauJgYhxHs-2Fs5O1WnUYX91Uvh1Ijem9UynXdCAg-3D) to continue to receive updates from us.
* If you would like to continue to receive updates from us and haven't already registered, please sign up directly at [**engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list**](http://url8988.commonplace.is/ls/click?upn=nSX9oJDE2dLgmKTcQYJRqsgnHCNlxPH6n9ST7xfoG7UfVYyd-2Bc3yNw0TgQyjXYoTcnT0IwEfu3OvBy41srBI0w-3D-3DKhaO_C88KuJM82rdctDmihnjpMcl8WhuVGNN9v7JgUgG2Z6byiZPNXaNYO3YUURUjWieqFqxB3HrlM7sNv9nb5iJFEQJFJihtvwtNQ91-2FhmINZT3U6ar7z8HejDXN5uLXkV1tQtmt2mDYI-2FtQxTqxcwmt7iKFXJohTWAX0cBGYqjAJjzzvHxUtEfaK-2FoXXg7gxEF1hGNeDnR40AUWeibiVvQMEKgQLPo7r8jrYyy35-2FVlFm5-2FN-2FC8ISKmf5tLCIqPezYYG3v-2F9EEGEbyrJvplwdfPgAluIVuei1C3zwHkZ5DT5gpuHKTTVwqthMSm5D0FSg-2BB5Nozd3wl-2FpHn6RcrG0uO5CvZAqP0aqJz0FfBfwn1-2BsaNiu-2BEFIXML7OmqmBV-2BLphdhxNFp3rNBZ1BQSW-2FLP-2BRTBZ1mhfeYvBCqxmvhrCAaA-3D). We will ask you to confirm your email address as part of the sign-up process.
* **Contact us if you have any questions:** If you have any questions about these changes or would like some help signing up to receive email updates from us please contact our HS2 Helpdesk team, available all day, every day on 08081 434 434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

**Advance notification:**

During October, the HS2 Community Engagement Team will be offering a series of face- to-face 1-2-1 appointments for those impacted by HS2, which will provide the opportunity to ask questions/obtain information on the latest developments with the Phase 2a project. Depending upon the level of interest from the community, these appointments may be held on one day or if interest is greater then further opportunities may be offered.

It is understood that these appointments will take place in Tixall Village Hall on **Monday, 11 October,** between the hours of 1pm – 7pm, which will allow residents who are working during the day to make an appointment.

Further information will be available on format, together with additional dates (if needed) in due course.

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**In addition to the above,** the HS2 Community Engagement Team are also offering a series of virtual 1-2-1 appointments for any residents who do not feel comfortable with face-to-face appointments and these are available for anyone to book on the following dates:

**Appointments are available to book on the following dates:**

Thursday 23 September 10am-7pm – [**Register Here**](https://www.hs2.org.uk/events/hs2-phase-2a-west-midlands-to-crewe-virtual-one-to-one-meetings-3/)
Wednesday 20 October 10am-7pm – [**Register Here**](https://www.hs2.org.uk/events/hs2-phase-2a-west-midlands-to-crewe-virtual-one-to-one-meetings-4/)
Wednesday 17 November 10am- 7pm – [**Register Here**](https://www.hs2.org.uk/events/hs2-phase-2a-west-midlands-to-crewe-virtual-one-to-one-meetings-5/)
Wednesday 15 December 10am-7pm – [**Register Here**](https://www.hs2.org.uk/events/hs2-phase-2a-west-midlands-to-crewe-virtual-one-to-one-meetings-6/)

You can also find these listed on the HS2 website at [**www.hs2.org.uk/events**](http://www.hs2.org.uk/events)

**HS2 Works Notification: Update - notice of ground investigation surveys at Ingestre Park Golf Club, east of Stafford**

To allow for the construction of the new railway and to continue to ensure a safe and reliable gas supply, Cadent will be starting work to move an existing gas pipeline near Brancote, east of Stafford, at the start of 2023. We're writing to let you know about some changes to planned works that we will be carrying out in your area.

We need to carry out some additional surveys on land south of Hanyards Lane, and will be starting this work from 22 September 2021. For further information regarding this work, please click on link below:

[View or download our works notification](https://assets.hs2.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/HS2-Notification-HP29-Ingestre-Park-Golf-Course-GI-surveys-September-2021-.pdf)

**Other Parish News**

**Tixall Broadband.** The Parish Council is continuing to work with Openreach on the Gigabit Broadband Vouchers scheme, following receipt of interest from over 60 residents. There is no further update available at present, but please be assured that we will keep the interested parties of progress as soon as possible.

**Parish Council website.** Residents are encouraged to access the Parish Council website, in order to increase the traffic to the site. The address for access is: <https://ingestrewithtixallparishcouncil.co.uk> and you may still be directed to the previous Parish Council website, this is beyond our control, however, with increased traffic to the new website this position will change.

**Please note**, the website is still being developed and you will see a number of pages that are not yet populated; however, we hope this will be addressed over the coming months and if any residents have any requests for information to be added to the site, please let our Clerk know, she will help if possible.

**Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal towpath improvements.** This project is being funded by a grant from HS2 and the Parish Council is working closely with HS2 and the Canal and River Trust (CRT), who will deliver the project on our behalf, to progress this project. The section within the Parish is a small part of a much larger scheme that CRT will deliver and it is hoped that work will commence in Autumn 2022. This is a little later than originally hoped, and unfortunately delays in securing funding are impacting this. We will continue to provide progress updates as/when we can.

**Speeding on Ingestre Park Road.** The Parish Council has received complaints about vehicles driving at excess speed along Ingestre Park Road, which is a concern. For the safety of all residents and users of the road, please drive with due care and attention. This road is regularly used by pedestrians, cyclists, horses and all should feel safe when travelling/walking on this road. If anyone witnesses drivers speeding along the road, why not take a photo of their vehicle and registration number, **only** **if it is safe to do so,** and report this to the Police.

**Village Hall Update**

**Tixall & Ingestre Village Hall 100-Club update**

The 100-club has had the following draws:

**June:**

* 1st prize of £25 was won by Eric Enocson
* 2nd prize of £10 was won by Frank Yates
* 3rd prize of £5 was won by Carol Burnet

**July:**

* 1st prize of £25 was won by Steve Pitt
* 2nd and 3rd prizes were unsold

**August:**

* 1st prize of £25 was won by Alex Enocson
* 2nd prize of £10 was won by Libby Wilkinson
* 3rd prize of £5 was won by Karin Hall

**The Village Hall has been well restored and decorated. It is now fully back in use and taking bookings – please contact Sheila Sindrey if interested on 01785 663767.**

**Coffee mornings are now taking place, 10.30am – 1.00pm:**

11 September and 13 November – see more details on banner outside Village Hall. Stalls will be available; cushions, church mouse jewellery, pottery, painting, pens, cards, etc

**Church News**

**Church Services in Ingestre and Tixall during September and October:**

12 September - Ingestre 11.15 am Holy Communion

19 September – Tixall 6.00 pm Harvest Festival

26 September - Ingestre 11.15 am Harvest Festival

3 October - Tixall 11.15 am Holy Communion

10 October - Ingestre 11.15am Morning Prayer

17 October - Tixall 11.15am Morning Prayer

24 October - Ingestre 11.15am Holy Communion

31st October No Service

**LOCAL INFORMATION OF INTEREST**

**Managing Cannock Chase – Update August 2021**

Over the last few years Staffordshire County Council, working with RSPB and Natural England, has been discussing and developing options for managing open habitats on Cannock Chase. You kindly took time to give your views on these options and asked to be kept informed on progress.

The options included types of management that have been used for many years on the Chase, such as cutting and controlled burning of heather, cutting and spot treating trees and scrub, and cutting and spraying bracken. They also included reintroducing grazing with livestock, which was the traditional way the Chase was managed before the Great War.

This is an update on what’s happening, and the work planned over the coming months. General information can be found here: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/Environment-and-countryside/Managing-Cannock-Chase/Overview.aspx>

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**Cattle arrive this month for grazing pilot**

In late August, six carefully selected cattle will arrive at Moors Gorse as part of our pilot grazing scheme for Cannock Chase Country Park. Cattle grazing is a great and natural way to conserve the heath – managing the habitats in a way that is impossible to replicate with tools and machines. The cattle help to create a more diverse structure to the vegetation, creating the conditions where more small flowering plants can grow by grazing and trampling some of the more vigorous species. They help reduce the growth of bracken and will nibble saplings and competitive grasses, giving more delicate plants a chance to survive. These in turn support a wider range of insects and other wildlife.

The six cattle are Herefords, a hardy native breed, and they have been getting used to heathland habitats and visitors on our nearby Chasewater site. The low number of cattle is important as they are there to provide a low level of conservation grazing on this sensitive site. The cattle are owned by a local grazier who, along with the rangers, will be regularly checking to ensure they are safe and well. New water troughs have been installed and connected up, and a handling area created so that the grazier can use this for any routine or required health checks and treatments. The fenced area for the pilot is about 2% of the country park and remains accessible to visitors. The cattle will remain on site until the autumn and will then be removed for the winter. Grazing will then continue each year from spring to autumn.

This is a small pilot scheme at Cannock Chase. We will then start to look at grazing other areas, but this will be subject to plenty of further discussion, formal consultation and independent approval by the Secretary of State. See the map of the grazing area, contained within the General information link above, and find out more.

**Keeping safe with cattle**

Moors Gorse remains fully accessible to visitors on foot (there are no bridleways or cycle routes through the fenced area). When the cattle are on site, it is best to give them plenty of space and keep dogs under control and away from them. Please do not feed or approach the cattle. If you prefer not to encounter cattle, there are routes that take you along the outer edge of the fence.

**Protecting deer and other wildlife**

The area has been fenced with conventional stock fence which has been fitted with special features to help deer and other wildlife cross. Deer are generally happy to jump stock fences, but to make life easier and ensure young deer can follow their mums, we have installed some railings on areas where deer routes cross the fence. We’ve been monitoring this over recent months and will continue to do so.

**Other conservation work**

Our usual wider programme of conservation work will continue this year. In August / September we will be controlling bracken through herbicide treatment. While some bracken is helpful for wildlife, too much can start to dominate the vegetation, crowding out other species. Herbicide treatment is a way to help get the balance. Please look out for signs indicating where contractors are working and follow all instructions on site.

We will also be undertaking heather management, scrub management and creating some more bare ground for heathland invertebrates. These tasks will take place from September and into the autumn and winter.

**Deer Safety Project**

The Cannock Chase Deer Safety Project has been set up with the aim of preventing deer vehicle collisions. It is doing this by researching and testing new mitigation techniques from around the world, monitoring deer behaviour and raising awareness. Deer collisions can be a significant safety issue for road users, as well as the risks to the deer themselves.

We are currently trialling three types of deer deterrents around the Chase – devices that try to stop deer going on the road when vehicles are approaching:

1. A low-tech deterrent comprising a scented virtual fence, white bags on sticks and increasing visibility on roadsides in hot spots areas where lots of collisions occur.
2. A moderate-tech deterrent comprising two types of reflectors. These reflect car headlights into the undergrowth using various colours of the sight spectrum which deer can see.
3. A high-tech deterrent comprising a range of devices. Some connect to each other when a car is approaching and emit a variable sound alarm and LED lights, able to operate both day and night. Another is a virtual fence set off by car headlights which emits an alarm and flashing LED lights. A further device is activated by the presence of the animal via a motion sensor, with some emitting an alarm sound, and others using various sounds such as dog barks, sticks cracking, swarming bees, etc.

The project is run by a group of passionate volunteers working with the Ranger Service. The plan is to see which mitigation works the best and then potentially role it out at the worst black spots locations across the Chase.

**Wild flower trial**

An area of land was set aside to plant a wild flower mix in the fenced off Duke of Edinburgh camping field at Marquis Drive. The ground was prepared in the Summer and the seed mix sown in the Autumn. The results so far are very encouraging. The plants that are currently in flower are awash with insects and there is a constant buzz of bees going about their work. Our resident swallows have also taken advantage by flying low over the plants and feasting on an abundance of flying insects. Plants currently flowering are poppies, ox eyed daisy, corn flower, corncockle and buttercup meadow with further species to follow throughout the summer.

**Brocton Oaks (the next generation)**

Over the last two years we have been growing acorns collected from Brocton Coppice that will eventually be planted back into the woodland. We currently have around 120 trees that are now two years old and 150 that have germinated this year, these will be potted on in the winter. Within the next few years these will be begin to appear in Brocton Coppice with the hope of one day becoming a magnificent veteran supporting its own unique assemblage of life.

**Play Area, Interpretation and Trails**

Work on our new play area near the visitor centre has started and should soon be completed. We are working on some improvements to the visitor centre itself and new interpretation and signage nearby. This will be installed later in the year and will include a new trail linking Marquis Drive to Chasewater Country Park.

New interpretation is being developed for the RAF Trail and at Brindley Village with support from the AONB and SAC Partnerships and Brindley Heath Legacy Group. We have also worked with partners including Together Active to secure more funding for the TocH trail as part of a wider project that will also enhance the links to the Chase from Hednesford.

**AONB News**

**Funding announced for farmers in the Cannock Chase AONB to make their farms more sustainable**

New funding is available to farmers and land managers in the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) who want to make their land more environmentally friendly.

The ‘Funding in Protected Landscapes Programme’ launched by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will support projects that ease the impacts of climate change and help nature recovery, as well as providing opportunities for people to enjoy the environment, or to support sustainable farming practices.

Frances Beatty, the Chair of Cannock Chase AONB said: “This is a great opportunity for local farms within Cannock Chase to become more sustainable and think differently about how they use their land.  The funding will help to kick start some amazing projects in the local area that showcase the living and working landscapes that are enjoyed by millions of people every year. We encourage anyone who may be interested in applying to the fund to submit an expression of interest through the <https://www.cannock-chase.co.uk/get-involved/farming-in-protected-landscapes/>

Applications for the fund opened on 1st July 2021 and will run until March 2024.  The programme is open to all farmers and land managers in the AONB or in its vicinity if it can be demonstrated that there is a benefit to the designated area.

**Resources for local businesses in Cannock Chase AONB**

Being associated with one of England’s finest landscapes makes good business sense by adding value to local products and services.

Cannock Chase AONB Partnership has created a <https://www.cannock-chase.co.uk/get-involved/resources-for-local-businesses/sense-of-place-toolkit/>

to help local businesses appreciate the special qualities of Cannock Chase and focus on how they can use a sense of place to develop and promote their products and services.  Along with the toolkit booklet, the Cannock Chase logo, business locators, and a selection of stunning images are all available - for free!  All businesses need to do is  <https://www.cannock-chase.co.uk/get-involved/resources-for-local-businesses/register-your-business/>

The toolkit has been designed around the new Cannock Chase place brand that captures the open landscape, freedom and sense of tranquillity of Cannock Chase in words and pictures. <https://www.cannock-chase.co.uk/get-involved/resources-for-local-businesses/brand-guidelines/> explain how the new brand can be used and applied. The objectives for the Cannock Chase place brand are to help to protect and enhance the natural beauty of this special place; inspire and unite local communities and partners; support rural regeneration; encourage social and capital investment.

Did you know the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership also has an electronic newsletter with updates about activity all across the AONB, not just on SCC land? If you would like to keep up to date with wider AONB news, alerts and updates, you can stay connected by subscribing to the AONB Newsletter <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSTAFFORDSHIRECC/signup/16990>

**New Chase film from Sustainability Matters**

Sustainability Matters – Stafford, working with Stafford-born TV presenter and ecologist Mike Dilger, have produced a film highlighting why the Chase is so special and what we all need to do to care for it. Titled A Rare and Special Landscape, the film poses an important question – are we loving the Chase to death? Featuring an interview with SCC Cannock Chase Ranger Karen Andrew, the film was supported by Cannock Chase AONB and can be viewed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE5Fg3t7EPs>



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| Newsletter date: 29 July 2021Cannock Chase AONB Annual Review 2020-21

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| Tixall GatehouseOur latest [Annual Review](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA3MjkuNDM4NDk4MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jYW5ub2NrLWNoYXNlLmNvLnVrL3B1YmxpY2F0aW9ucy9hbm51YWwtcmVwb3J0cy8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWVtYWlsIn0.XIcLcGPafhlkkhJKJJft-qLSKhkjBBpJRK_8Ce5jYTk/s/631826843/br/110095392909-l) is now ready for you to enjoy and discover what we have been doing.In what has been an extraordinary and challenging year our AONB Team has kept working with partners and local communities to deliver a range of activities that conserve and enhance the natural beauty of Cannock Chase, and at the same time connect people with this nationally important landscape.  Read how:* New studies have highlighted the importance of the Chase for bats and invertebrates
* The value of dark skies and the ways we can reduce light pollution has been promoted jointly with Staffordshire CPRE
* Resources have been made available for local businesses to promote Cannock Chase in their products and services
* The landscape character of the Chase has been protected and enhanced through expert advice given to proposed new development including housing, HS2 and the Commonwealth Games.
* Five community groups have been supported through the AONB Sustainable Development Fund
* The visitor experience is being improved by the preparation of new on-site interpretation
* A strategy to protect and celebrate the Chase’s rich historic and cultural environment is being prepared with the input of local communities

[Contact us](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA3MjkuNDM4NDk4MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jYW5ub2NrLWNoYXNlLmNvLnVrL2dldC1pbnZvbHZlZC9nZXQtaW4tdG91Y2gvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1lbWFpbCJ9.KS-a3TPfDPYkmdvlbQKjEoB1LtyiEcTnFlzynJCGxKw/s/631826843/br/110095392909-l) if you would like to know more about any of our activities. [Find out more about Cannock Chase AONB](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA3MjkuNDM4NDk4MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmNhbm5vY2stY2hhc2UuY28udWs_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWVtYWlsIn0.DkZIHGC95hqmDsyU1KvSJW1MukgZKHj9TEeRUUHpL5M/s/631826843/br/110095392909-l) |

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**INFORMATION OF INTEREST**

**Stafford Borough Council released the following Press Releases over the summer:**

Artificial hips and knees replaced with cash for charity



Recycled artificial hip and knee joints have helped towards a £10,000 donation to a Stafford charity which supports families who have suffered the bereavement of a child.

The artificial joints, along with nails and screws from the coffins, have been passed on to a recycling company by Stafford Crematorium in return for money which is then donated to charity.

Once consent from the families has been given, the metal is filtered out as part of the cremation process leaving the ashes to be collected by the deceased’s loved ones or buried.

Stafford Borough Council, which runs the crematorium on the town’s Tixall Road, has donated more than £80,000 since 2013 through the scheme.

The latest recipient is Stafford-based ‘A Child of Mine’ (ACOM) which has received £10,000. The charity offers emotional support, information, and guidance to families suffering the loss of a baby or child.

Gayle Routledge, founder of the charity, said: “We were blown away when we heard we would be receiving an incredible £10,000! It is hard to put into words how much of a difference this will make to bereaved families.

“This amount of money could cover the costs of over 700 hours of one-to-one support for bereaved parents or even run our Sunshine and Rainbows sibling support playgroup for over two whole years. Most importantly, it has given us a lifeline to be able to support families when they are ready to be supported and, more importantly, how they want to be supported.

“Every family is different. We make sure we are flexible with our support and what we can offer to ensure it is right for every individual family and donations from the local community are vital in enabling us to do this.

“It is an understatement to say that this will help to change the lives of so many bereaved families but, it truly will. We have known the team at Stafford Crematorium for many years and they are so supportive of everything we do here at ACOM and they continue to surprise us with their support.”

Councillor Jonathan Price, Cabinet Member for Environment at the Borough Council, said it was so good to hear that the money would make a significant difference to the charity.

“This is such a worthwhile charity that gives comfort and support to bereaved parents and other family members at an extremely sad time for them. And I hope that those who have had loved ones cremated will draw some comfort from knowing their loss is helping others.

“I’m very proud of how much our crematorium has raised over the years for many good causes and it has been great to hear the feedback from the charities about how this money is helping them with their excellent work.”

The Tixall Road site was awarded ‘Gold’ status by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and has retained its ‘Green Flag’ as one of the best open spaces in the country.

More details about the service can be found at [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/bereavement](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/bereavement)

Press Release No 5779

Councillors set to give permission for £20m spend on Stafford transformation



Senior councillors in Stafford are being asked to approve spending of around £20 million to transform the town’s High Street.

A report that will go before the Cabinet at Stafford Borough Council on Thursday (1 July) outlines proposals for the scheme for the north end of the town centre which were announced earlier this year.

The funding consists of more than £14.3m from a Government-backed pot to improve high streets, along with around £5.4 million from the Borough Council.

The vision includes increasing the number of people living in the town – to support the retail and hospitality sectors - creating new pedestrian routes around the centre with great links to public transport; enhanced spaces encouraging people to socialise with a revamped Market Square as the focal point for events and activities.

The Indoor Market could be relocated, and re-designed, to improve footfall as part of the regeneration plans.

The council has been working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the proposals having been awarded £14.3 million following a successful bid to the Future High Streets Fund. And the project is expected to be backed by major private sector investment. Further details remain commercially confidential at this time.

The money is ringfenced for projects within the town’s High Street that are aimed at breathing new life into the north of the town centre in a project described as the ‘biggest transformation in a generation’ of that area.

The council is working closely with Staffordshire County Council on the scheme.

And on Thursday (1 July) the Cabinet will be asked to allow the spending of £19,748,000 which has been allocated within the Borough Council’s capital programme for the Future High Streets Fund project.

Councillor Frances Beatty, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Planning, said: “This is very exciting and will lead to the huge rejuvenation of the north end of the town centre. Our plans, which have been backed by the Government, will make our county town a destination of choice.

“Along with new and improved facilities, we will also create attractive meeting spaces to bring people into the town for cultural and other reasons that will support the retail offer, therefore making a massive difference to the economy and the way the community views, and uses, the town."

She added: “We will see the biggest transformation of the town centre in a generation.”

The full cabinet agenda can be found from the council’s [website](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Committee-Agenda-21-22/Cabinet/Cabinet-1-July-2021-Agenda.pdf)

Press Release No 5780

*Every endeavour has been made to ensure information contained in this Newsheet is correct at the time of production.*