**INGESTRE & TIXALL NEWS**

February 2023

INGESTRE WITH TIXALL PARISH COUNCIL

Contents

**Page 2/3** – Parish News, including Planning Applications recently consulted on, Latest updates from HS2

**Pages 3/4** – Other Parish News, including canal tow path improvements Ingestre Community Garden, Elections update

**Pages 4/5** – Becoming a Parish Councillor, Consultation on SCC boundaries review

**Page 6** – Village Hall update

**Page 7** – Church News

**Pages 7/10** – Updates from Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council

**Page 10/11** – **Local information of interest:** Star Count 2023 and information from NHS services

**Page 11** – Parish Council website details

**PARISH NEWS**

**Parish Council Meetings:** meeting dates for 2023/24 have now been agreed and will be added to the Parish Council website, where the Meeting Agendas and Minutes can be accessed, [www.ingestretixallparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.ingestretixallparishcouncil.co.uk)

All meetings will take place on a Wednesday evening (unless otherwise stated), from 7.30pm in Tixall village hall and you are all welcome to attend. Meeting dates are as follows:

* 10 May 2023 – Annual Meeting of the Council, to be followed by a normal Parish Council meeting
* 17 May 2023 – **Annual Parish Meeting\*\*.** Everyone is invited to attend. We are hoping to secure the attendance of a representative from Staffordshire Fire Service Prevention Team. We also hope to have representation from the Orangery.
* 12 July 2023 – Parish Council Meeting. This will be held at Ingestre Orangery.
* 13 September 2023 – Parish Council Meeting.
* 8 November 2023 – Parish Council Meeting.
* 10 January 2024 – Parish Council Meeting.
* 13 March 2024 – Parish Council Meeting.

**\*\* Please join us for the Annual Parish Meeting.** This is your meeting and your opportunity to meet your Parish Cllrs. We want to hear what you have to say about what your Parish Council can do for you and the Parish, so please come along. Refreshments will be available.

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**Parish Precept 2023/24: t**he Parish Council met in November 2022 and January 2023 to consider and finalise its budget for 2023/24. At the January 2023 meeting the budget was approved and the Precept request for 2023/24 agreed.

The decision was taken to set the Parish Precept for both Parishes for 2023/24 at £2,975.00 each. This represents an increase of £300.00 on last year for each Parish, which equates to a rise of £4.36 per annum for Ingestre and a rise of £2.27 per annum for Tixall, based upon the rateable value of an average Band D property.

The Parish Council will always strive to keep a tight rein upon its finances to ensure it offers the best value possible to its residents.

**Skip Lorry visits for 2023.** The Parish Council has recently agreed the following dates for the skip lorry to visit the villages:

* **1 April 2023** – 9.00 – 10.00am at Ingestre, opposite Home Farm Court. 10.15 – 11.15am at Tixall Village Hall car park.
* **7 October 2023** – details as above.

**Planning Applications.**

For your information, the Parish Council has been consulted on the following Planning Applications since October 2022:

* 22/36610/PAR – Application was subsequently withdrawn on 22.11.2022
* 22/36645/FUL
* 22/36741/TCA
* 22/36798/FUL
* 22/36775/HOU
* 23/36973/PAR – Application was withdrawn on 9.2.2023
* 22/36909/FUL, link to previous Application 20/32528/FUL

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**Latest updates on HS2**

Work within the Parish on HS2 continues. Updates are regularly added to the Parish website, so please take the opportunity to view these as/when you can. There is a dedicated HS2 page, where all the latest details, as received by the Parish Council, can be found.

**Notice of Road overnight Closure** – Hoo Mill, Tixall Road and Mill Lane. From 20 February – 24 March 2023. For full details, see Notice attached.

**Keir** will be carrying out geophysical surveys – soil surveys between February and August 2023.

**Balfour Beatty** continue to carry out early environmental works, to create new habitat sites, including ponds, grasslands and hedgerows.

The Parish Council are planning to invite representatives from Kier and Balfour to a future Parish Council meeting, hopefully September 2023. More details will follow.

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**Other Parish News**

**Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal towpath improvements**. The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that the Canal and River Trust have identified and appointed the preferred Contractor to carry out the improvements to the canal towpath, which has the support of the Trent Sow Group. Therefore, it is hoped that works will commence in due course.

It will be necessary to close access to the canal tow path for a period of 3 months from the Haywood Junction to Milford Turnover bridge. The closure was expected to be in place from January 2023, however, this has been delayed and an actual closure date is not available at this time, nevertheless, the Parish Council remains optimistic that the improvements will be completed in advance of the 2023 summer period.

**Community Garden at Ingestre.** The Parish Council has been assessing the condition of the Community Garden over the past few months, following an update by residents that the garden was looking a little unkempt, with the non-grassed areas being covered by weeds.

As part of this assessment, the Parish Cllrs decided to try to secure some grant funding to help with the purchase of tree plaques and holders for the numerous trees in the garden. Unfortunately, on this occasion, our application was not successful. However, we will not be deterred and our Clerk is currently exploring another possible funding stream. In the meantime, the garden does need to be maintained and we need the help of the local community to do this. Therefore, if you have a small amount of spare time (1-2 hrs twice a year) why not join a Working Group and support us with some general tidying up and weeding tasks. Our Parish Cllr David Lees is willing to be the lead person for the group. Therefore, if you have some time to spare and are interested in helping, please email the Parish Clerk to register your interest. Thank you.

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**Elections 2023**

Borough and Parish Elections will take place on Thursday, 4 May 2023.

**Voter ID – important information.** This is a national change to voting that will take place for the elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

You will need to bring photo identification to be able to vote at a polling station, which can include passports and driving licences.

If you do not have Voter ID, which will be photo identification, then you will need to apply for photo ID to enable you to vote, which is a Voter Authority Certificate. It is free to apply for and for all the details you will need please visit SBC’s website:

<https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/elections>

**Becoming a Parish Councillor**

Are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, do you have some spare time to give to your local community and have some skills that you believe will be of benefit to your local community, then why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

Ingestre with Tixall Parish Council is made up of 7 Councillors. 4 who represent Tixall and 3 who represent Ingestre. If you are interested and wish to find out more, please contact our Parish Clerk, clerk@ingestretixall.staffslc.gov.uk

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**A consultation on division boundaries for Staffordshire County Council is in progress:**

A 10-weekpublic consultation inviting proposals for new council divisions and division boundaries for Staffordshire County Council commenced on 10 January 2023 and will close on 20 March 2023.

After all representations made during this consultation have been considered, draft recommendations will be published in July 2023.

A further period of consultation on the draft recommendations will follow, with final recommendations expected to be published in November 2023.

The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in May 2025.

**What is an electoral review?**

Our electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for Staffordshire County Council. We will propose:

* the total number of councillors elected to the council in the future;
* the number of divisions;
* the number of councillors representing each division;
* division boundaries; and
* the names of divisions.

**How to get involved**

This is a public consultation and we welcome views from individuals and organisations across Staffordshire on where they think new division boundaries should be drawn.

We are minded to recommend that **62 councillors** should be elected to Staffordshire County Council in the future.

This is **no change** from the current number of councillors.

We are now inviting proposals to help us draw up a pattern of divisions to accommodate **62 councillors**.

In drawing up new electoral divisions, we must balance three legal criteria, namely:

* to deliver electoral equality: where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county;
* that the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities;
* that the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

We will treat all submissions equally, and judge each case on its merits and against the legal criteria.

If you wish to put forward a view, we would also urge you to ensure that evidence supports your submission.

For example, if you wish to argue that two areas should be included in the same electoral division, make sure you tell us why they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations, and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together.

There is more advice on [our website](https://localgovernmentboundarycommissionforengland.cmail20.com/t/j-l-eltkyld-ddjdmudiy-j/) about how you can get involved in the consultation.

Our website features [technical guidance](https://localgovernmentboundarycommissionforengland.cmail20.com/t/j-l-eltkyld-ddjdmudiy-t/) that explains the process and our policies, as well as guidance on how to take part in each part of the process.

We have also set up a webpage dedicated to the review of Staffordshire, where you can find all the relevant information.

You can also access interactive maps of the current ward boundaries across Staffordshire on our [specialist consultation portal](https://localgovernmentboundarycommissionforengland.cmail20.com/t/j-l-eltkyld-ddjdmudiy-i/). The portal also allows you to comment and upload documents directly to the site.

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**Village Hall Update**

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

The 100-club has had the following draws:

**November:**

* 1st prize of £25 was unsold
* 2nd prize of £10 was unsold
* 3rd prize of £5 was won by Fiona Ramsay

**December :**

* 1st prize of £25 was unsold
* 2nd prize of £10 was won by Nicky Grainger
* 3rd prize of £5 was won by Libby Wilkinson

**January 2023:**

* 1st prize of £25 was won by Chris Hassall
* 2nd prize of £10 was won by Karin Hall
* 3rd prize of £5 was unsold

**February:**

* 1st prize of £25 was unsold
* 2nd prize of £10 was unsold
* 3rd prize of £5 was won by Trudie McGuinness

To join the 100 Club please contact Nicola Woodhouse, nicola.woodhouse@btinternet.com or 01785 663262.

Coffee Mornings & Craft Sales with soup lunch are continuing, held on each 2nd Saturday morning, from **10.00am until 12.30pm**. Why not take the opportunity to come along and get warm whilst catching up with and meeting your neighbours, buying cakes, cushions, cards, jams you can also re-cycle books & jigsaws.

For general hall enquiries, email tixallingestrevillagehall@gmail.com

For bookings, please contact Sheila Sindrey if interested on 01785 663767.

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**Church News**

**Please find details below of Church Services in Ingestre and Tixall from 22 February until early May 2023:**

22 February – Ash Wednesday Service at St John’s Church at 2.00pm and 7.30pm

**Sunday Services in Ingestre**

**Ingestre – St Mary the Virgin Services**

26 February, 11.15am – Holy Communion

12 March, 6.00pm – Evening Prayer

26 March, 11.15am – Holy Communion

9 April – Easter Day. 11.15am – Holy Communion

23 April, 11.15am – Holy Communion

**30 April – No Services**

**Sunday Services in Tixall**

**Tixall – St John the Baptist Service**

5 March, 11.15am – Holy Communion

19 March, 11.15am – Morning Prayer

2 April – Palm Sunday. 11.15am – Holy Communion

9 April – Easter Day. **9.00am** – Holy Communion

16 April, 11.15am – Morning Prayer

**30 April – No Services**

7 May, 11.15am – Holy Communion

For more information contact the Church office 01785 253493

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**Update from Stafford Borough Council**

**Just 6p on council tax for Stafford residents:**

Residents will pay just 6p a week extra in tax to Stafford Borough Council from April.

Car parking and garden waste collection charges will be frozen; major investment will continue; and popular events like the spectacular fireworks during the ‘Christmas Lights Switch On’ will still go ahead.

And plans have also been put forward which will see an extra 1700 of the hardest hit families in the borough pay no council tax in the next financial year.

Councillor Mike Smith, Cabinet Member for Resources, has outlined the programme of proposals that could go ahead despite the local authority having faced a potential shortfall of around £900,000.

A meeting of the Full Council will next week (Tuesday 24 January) hear that the average band ‘D’ property in the borough will pay around £3.24 a week - a 1.9 percent rise - for services such as the recycling and waste collection, street cleaning, maintaining parks and helping the homeless.

Already the council has earmarked around £600,000 savings by sharing services with neighbouring Cannock Chase District Council in a move that will protect key functions to residents. That saving includes a £90,000 reduction of senior management costs.

Like most local authorities across the country, Stafford Borough Council is still recovering from the financial impact of the pandemic, increases in energy costs and the rise in the cost of living.

A range of future savings has also been put forward to address the gap in the budget with senior councillors stressing that vital services to the community would be protected.

The report which will be discussed by councillors on Tuesday states: “The challenges facing local government as a whole are exceptional when setting next year’s budget - most councils will be facing decisions that involve the severe curtailment or closure of some services.”

The council is the ‘collecting authority’ for the whole of Stafford Borough and the overall council tax bill to residents will include charges for Staffordshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Authority, as well as any additions for areas with parish councils.

Councillor Smith, said: “Despite the enormous financial pressures that all local authorities are facing, we have kept our promise of keeping council tax to a minimum - and this will mean only six pence a week more for the average household - while protecting the services that are important to our community.

“We have an excellent reputation for having well managed finances and, although the pandemic and rise in inflation have had huge impact on the council budget, this authority will still be delivering significant investment in major projects such as the transformation of Stafford Town Centre and the creation of a top-class destination park in Stone.”

He added: “We are also looking to support our lowest-income families by putting forward proposals to give them a 100 percent discount on their council tax bill. That will mean around 4,500 households paying no council tax from this April.”

The annual amount of council tax for a Band D property that will be paid to the borough council is £168.52 for 2023/24. This was agreed by the council’s cabinet last month.

The Full Council will be discussing the report which can be found at [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/committee/council](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/committee/council)

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**Updates from Staffordshire County Council**

Latest update from Staffordshire County Council, keeping residents up to date and informed about activity being carried out by their Highways teams.

## Gully diagram**Thermal Road Repairs**

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| David Williams**We’ve been trialling a new method of fixing road defects, which could help us in colder weather.**The Thermal Road Repairs machine uses thermal technology and solar power to heat the road surface until it becomes malleable. This allows crews to re-lay the surface, adding a small amount of asphalt where needed to fix any defect.By reusing existing tarmac, the method also cuts down on waste and is better for the environment.We trialled the machine in Bilbrook, South Staffordshire for two weeks. If successful, the machine could be rolled out across the county, to help increase the amount of road maintenance that can be carried out during the winter months.**Highway drainage:**

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| GullyDid you know?We maintain over 180,000 gullies across the county with a fleet of six gully machines. We receive an average of over 250 reports a month from the public regarding drainage issues, but we also routinely cleanse gullies as part of our cyclical gully emptying programme. The majority are cleansed every three years but major roads and areas that flood are cleansed more often.Whilst cleansing or jetting a gully can resolve simple problems, sometimes we have to carry out complex repairs which can take much longer to coordinate.We are working really hard to get through all of the requests we have, and we will be using some of our additional investment to tackle the more complicated drainage issues on our network.We don’t just maintain gullies, we have a mix of assets including pipes, culverts, manholes and drainage kerbs etc. As we adopt new housing estates or build more roads we take on more ownership and responsibility.Reporting drainage issuesMany highway drainage systems are very old, and their capacity simply cannot cope with the storms that we now see more regularly. This can mean water takes longer than usual to drain away during intense rainfall. Whilst it is tempting to report a problem like this to us during rainfall, we would always advise to wait until 2 hours after rainfall has passed.

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| Don’t forget, it is common to find a small amount of water lying at the bottom of a gully pot.In areas where it is safe to do so, you can help by clearing the leaves off the tops of gullies and removing any nearby weeds. Visit their website for more information, search Highways: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk> |

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**LOCAL INFORMATION OF INTEREST**

# [Star Count 2023](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMzEuNzA3MTk5MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jYW5ub2NrLWNoYXNlLmNvLnVrL3N0YXItY291bnQtMjAyMy8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWVtYWlsIn0.8ZJz_2GobHw6hNVsikJK4RywF0e4MVXln2kfwa0O4YE/s/631826843/br/153703848339-l)

Nothing beats looking upwards at the night sky to see velvety blackness, with twinkling constellations. Our buildings and roads emit light, and this can affect our view of truly dark skies. Light pollution doesn’t just spoil our view of the skies – it can also be very bad news for insects and other wildlife. The AONB together with the Countryside Protection for Rural Environment CPRE have a Dark Skies project to help our community and visitors to better appreciate and enjoy the wonder of dark skies, better understand the effects of light pollution on human well-being, wildlife and sustainability, and encourage everyone to protect and enhance dark skies and reduce light pollution in the area.

Every winter, CPRE, the countryside charity, runs a citizen science survey called the Star Count, in which people count the number of stars they can see with the naked eye in the Orion constellation. This year’s Star Count takes place from 17th – 24th February and the results will be used to produce a map of which areas have the darkest skies.

To find out more, click and open link below:

[Find out more](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMzAxMzEuNzA3MTk5MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jYW5ub2NrLWNoYXNlLmNvLnVrL3N0YXItY291bnQtMjAyMy8_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWVtYWlsIn0.c8pmAxHjVTCeuHrB4vUGLsPzjNkvCCw5AR8Dvdoz5EI/s/631826843/br/153703848339-l)

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**The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board, which oversees NHS services in the local area, wish to share the following information with residents:**

If you need urgent medical help this winter, whether that be for symptoms you’re worried about, if you or a loved one has fallen or injured themselves, if you child has injured themselves or is unwell, or if you’ve got a dental problem, you can get immediate help by heading over to [www.111.nhs.uk](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.111.nhs.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7Calannah.copeland%40nhs.net%7Cf6141f41cde8497bf83b08daddcbb203%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638066164204835267%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jgCYxTMJVp%2FXzsTEnXjcAKeRVDJmCxDycumS9pE6Cm4%3D&reserved=0). You will answer a few questions about the health need, and get instant support and advice about how you could self-care, or where you need to go to get further support. If you don’t have access to the internet, or if your little one is aged five or under, call ‘111’ for the same help and advice.

If you are told you need to go to an Emergency Department (A&E) and it is not life-threatening, you may not need an ambulance. Think whether a family member or friend can take you, or help you get there.

If you’re trying to get an appointment at your local GP surgery, remember, it might be better to see another member of the qualified team members within your practice – seeing your GP isn’t necessarily always the best option, and might mean you waiting longer. If your practice does not have any appointments available, ask about Enhanced Access appointments. You may be able to visit another practice within a few miles of your own surgery, much sooner.

**In life-threatening emergencies, you should always dial 999 immediately.**

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**Stafford Half Marathon takes place this year on Sunday, 12 March 2023.**  For more details, please visit: <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/event/stafford-half-marathon-2023>

**Parish Council website**

Please visit the Parish Council website for information of meetings, etc

<https://www.ingestrewithtixallparishcouncil.co.uk>

If residents have suggestions or ideas for content that would be of interest and value to them, please email your suggestions to the Parish Clerk, clerk@ingestretixall.staffslc.gov.uk

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