



Brizlincote  
Parish Council

February 2013  
Issue 10

## Brizlincote Parish Council Newsletter

### Brizlincote Community Speed Watch...the Facts

**The Speed Watch Team** - The Brizlincote Community Speed Watch Team is comprised of trained volunteers from the local community, who work at locations in the Parish to monitor known speeding problems. The locations have been risk assessed to ensure the safety of the team. A minimum of two volunteers are legally required to operate each Speed Watch Check, but a team of three is better.



**What they do?** - The Speed Watch Team point a hand held speed gun at approaching vehicles to check their speeds. Details of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are recorded, along with the speed of the vehicle. These details are then passed on to the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, where they are then processed and letters are issued. The Speed Watch Team are never given details of the drivers' identity.

**What happens to speeding drivers?** - Speeding drivers are issued with an advisory warning letter requesting that they slow down and observe the speed limit. If the same vehicle is caught again by any Community Speed Watch, a follow-up final letter is issued. If it is identified that the vehicle has been caught speeding through any Speed Watch for the third time within 12 months, the history of the vehicle will be checked and information will be passed to the appropriate local policing team who will organise for the keeper to be visited and warned.

**Is it effective?** - The Speed Watch Team is about acting as a deterrent to speeding motorists, and the team's presence does make the traffic slow down and drive within the speed limit. Areas where speeding issues remain may also be targeted for enforcement activity using the Safety Camera Team. Cameras are only used as a last resort, it is better to educate and train motorists wherever possible. However, if caught speeding by the Safety Camera Team, motorists will be prosecuted.



**Volunteers required** - In order to increase the frequency of Speed Checks operating within the Brizlincote Parish we need additional volunteers. If you are interested contact Cllr. Bernard Peters (ESBC-Brizlincote Ward) on 01283 740404 for more information. Currently there are only four volunteers, three councillors and a WI member on the Speed Watch Team...**HELP IS URGENTLY REQUIRED**

**Our Aim is to reduce speeding within Brizlincote Parish...** 'If a pedestrian is hit by a car at 40 mph only 15% survive, at 30 mph 50% are killed, and at 20 mph 95% survive'. **SLOW DOWN!**

### Parish Plan update

After several meetings, a lot of data crunching and many returned questionnaires from our local residents, the Parish Plan committee reported back to the Parish Council recently. There were several common themes that have been clear through the feedback that we have received and reported to you, and much of this work is proceeding with regard to the **improvement of planting, hedges and open spaces in the Parish as well as concerns over traffic speeds and parking**. Given the specific nature of the common issues, it has been decided that the preparation of a Parish Plan would not be appropriate at this point, and that to concentrate on these few matters would be a better use of the resources available to the Parish Council. This, of course, does not mean that this will not be re-visited in the future, perhaps with an eye to the new neighbourhood plans as various local areas trial this idea. We await the outcomes of these pilot schemes with interest.



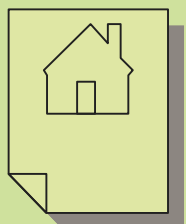
## ***Building an extension to your property has just got a whole lot easier!***

New changes to planning regulations will allow most householders to build both up and out for the first time, within certain limits, without requiring specific planning permission. Along with doing away with local planning department form-filling and bureaucracy comes the added bonus that homes with new extensions WON'T be charged additional council tax. The new rules attempt to strike a balance between allowing homeowners to make improvements and limiting the size of an extension so neighbours are protected. Larger more intrusive extensions will still require permission.

The regulations also aim to reduce the flood risks caused by surface water run off. Converting your front garden to a driveway or parking area over five square metres will not require planning permission as long it is constructed using surfaces that allow the water to soak through the ground. Surface water can be drained using permeable surfaces such as concrete block paving with gaps, porous asphalt or gravel, wheel track only paving or through installation of 'soak-away' systems.

A new planning portal website has been set up to help consumers understand the new planning requirements when making home improvements. The site includes an inter-active diagram of a house. You simply click on the part of the house you are changing and the new planning rules are explained.

To find out more, go to <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk> . For more information on the types of acceptable permeable surfaces for front gardens, go to <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/commonprojects/patiosdriveways>



All decisions on planning applications are made by East Staffordshire Borough Council. The Parish Council are consulted, but only have advisory powers.

## ***Message from the Chair...Cllr Geoffrey Willett***

### ***Before or During?***

You may have seen published in the Burton Mail of 19<sup>th</sup> December, a letter to me from Councillor Jim Muir. Jim had been hurt by remarks from our 'Principal Authorities', and asks me to provide a stricter management of our deliberations.

Whilst I intend to do this, I regret what happened at the November meeting (the only meeting I had to miss in seven years), but especially because the Vice-Chair, Councillor Bill Warrilow, kindly took the chair for me at only 30 minutes' notice.



My aim for seven years has been not only to carry out the duty of making meetings open and accessible to anyone who wishes to attend, but to make such attendance a very positive experience. Not many of you attend very often, and if you do come, it should be something you will want to repeat. I speak from 14 years in the 'public gallery' of another Parish Council and recollect how much better the experience became once I was made to feel part of the meeting (as opposed to studying the backs of the Councillors) and to contribute, if appropriate.

Currently the public have a quarter of an hour to ask questions and to make comments before the meeting begins. Is this how you prefer it, or would you like the meeting to adjourn for you to have your say at a later stage? Either way, the 'Principal Authorities' can follow on, after which you and they must forever hold your and their peace. One pleasing aspect of the December meeting was to have two people interested in filling the vacancy on the Council and we have been pleased to welcome Councillor Adrian Cowan to join us.

### ***Gap in availability of Medical Provision 'Bridged'***

Further to my letter in the last Newsletter about the availability of Winshill Medical Centre for Brizlincote residents, I was grateful for a letter from Mr Dave Bassett, Chair of Bridge Surgery Patients Group, informing me that since my failure to gain acceptance at Bridge Surgery, the catchment area for the practice was re-defined to include provision for all Brizlincote residents, plus a choice of 7 doctors of which 3 are female. I conclude that Brizlincote is very well served by Stapenhill Bridge Surgery and Winshill Medical Centre, both with access to Hill Street Health and Wellbeing Centre, and for all this we should be truly thankful.

# Nuisance Phone Calls



Following our earlier advice regarding nuisance phone calls, we now offer advice as to how they may be combated.

Part 2 written by  
Cllr Jim Muir

- When you answer your phone, just say 'hello', rather than giving your name or number to an unknown caller.
- If it's a nuisance call, just put the phone down immediately and say nothing.
- Join the telephone preference service. This is a free service which will add your number to a list which is distributed to UK companies. They should then no longer call you with marketing calls. It will take up to three months for your details to filter through and should stop all calls from British companies but unfortunately will not halt calls from abroad. Call 0845 0700707 or register online at <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>
- Get a "Caller Display" telephone, it will show you the number calling on the display. You can enter the numbers of your friends and family into the memory so that you can identify who's calling you. Others will show as "withheld", "international" or "unknown", just ignore ones that you don't want to answer. Cold callers will stop pestering when calls are not answered.
- Make a list of numbers which you don't recognise and report them to your phone company.

If you're a confident type of person there are a couple of tricks that you might like to try.

- Pretend that you have a language problem. Don't try French, German or Spanish as the caller may well speak the most common European languages. Gobbledegook works well and keeps them guessing.
- String them along. I love the "you have a problem with your computer" calls and have managed to keep them talking for quarter of an hour or more. Start by agreeing that there is a problem, pretend to be following their instructions but tell them that the machine is taking ages to come on and then crashes so that you must start again. Conclude by saying that there is someone at the door and leaving them hanging on while you go off to have a cup of tea.

**Bottom line - don't give any cold caller bank account details or personal details of any kind. Your phone company will have an advice line, for BT that number is on the front of the phone book.**

## ***Cat still missing***

We would like to highlight a plea from local resident Paula regarding her black and white neutered male cat 'Toddy' who is still missing. Having gone missing over a year ago, this micro-chipped friendly cat has a prominent white moustache and the family are very keen to find out if he has found a new home in the area just so that they know that he is safe and well. If you think that you may know Toddy, **please contact Paula on 07983 028370.**

## ***New Councillor Co-opted***

Welcome to Councillor Adrian Cowan, who has been co-opted onto the Brizlincote Parish Council. He is keen to see residents get involved in their community, and has encouraged ESBC update road signs, footpaths, remove graffiti as well as being keen to see pupils and parents have a greater sense of responsibility either by respecting where they park or the litter they drop.

## **Use a Pinch of Grit...Do not Pinch the Grit!**

Grit bins are provided for the public to use to keep the highway clear; using the material to clear your own property is theft! The material in 'grit' bins is crushed rock salt, spread it carefully and give it time to work, it needs to be trafficked before the ice and snow will start to melt. The equivalent of a bag of sugar of grit can be spread over 25 square metres, the area occupied by three typical sized family cars...use it sparingly.



## Updates from your Brizlincote Ward ESBC Councillors



Councillor Jake Fellows

Phone: 01283 546092

Email: [jake.fellows@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk](mailto:jake.fellows@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk)



Councillor Bernard Peters

Phone: 01283 740404

Email: [bernard.peters@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk](mailto:bernard.peters@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk)

The introduction of parking restrictions on Greenvale Close has been completed, the early signs are encouraging with very few vehicles being observed during school drop off and pick up times parking irresponsibly, ESBC enforcement teams have increased visibility in the area. Working with the Parish Council we have been able to address a series of complaints regarding grass cutting and hedge maintenance, ensuring regular surveys are undertaken and the contractor at ESBC maintains the expected standards has now been emphasised. Contact your Brizlincote Ward ESBC Councillors to share any issues you have with them. Cllr Peters and Fellows still have **WASP** funding available to support Brizlincote community projects.

### East Staffs Borough Council WASP funds...what are they?



**Ward Action Service Plans** funds are for the use of ESBC Councillors to allocate funding to support the communities they serve. Each ESBC Councillor has an annual budget of £1000 to spend via an application process. If you are planning any local community projects within the Brizlincote Parish that require funding, approach your local ESBC councillors to see if they can allocate some of their WASP funding towards it.

Contact either Councillor Jake Fellows on 01283 546092 or Councillor Bernard Peters on 01283 740404.

A separate budget using the remainder of the WASP fund is used for issues identified through the Councils Neighbourhood Working Initiative again to support communities within East Staffordshire. All funding is subject to bids being made, which are then assessed by a member and officer board, chaired by the Leader of ESBC.

**NEWS FLASH - Annual Brizlincote Parish Meeting to be held on Thursday 25th April 2013 at Violet Way Academy & Nursery with a prompt 7:00 pm start.**

## Councillor Contact Details

Brizlincote Parish Councillors				East Staffs Borough Councillors	
Geoffrey Willett	01283 548868	Cedric Insley	01283 561497	Jake Fellows	01283 546092
Bill Warrilow	01283 567447	Graham Lomas	01283 538721	Bernard Peters	01283 740404
Michael Ball	01283 534095	Peter Lyne	07980 868726	Staffordshire County Councillor	
Adrian Cowan	01283 530472	Jim Muir	01283 544477	Kathy Lamb	01889 562196
Arthur Goldstraw	01283 567974	Kay Sherratt	01283 547504		
Ruth Goldstraw	01283 567974	MP for Burton: Andrew Griffiths Email: andrew@andrewgriffiths.org.uk			

### FEEDBACK PLEASE!

Send us your suggestions and comments on anything relevant to the Parish Council. Contact **Liz James**, the Clerk of the Parish Council on **01538 702077**, or email [clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk), or by using the online contact form on the Parish Council website, [www.brizlincote-pc.org.uk](http://www.brizlincote-pc.org.uk).

### Editorial Committee

Michael Ball, Adrian Cowan and Graham Lomas

### Brizlincote Parish Council Meetings for 2013

Thursday 21st February

Thursday 21st March

Thursday 18th April

**Meetings are held at Violet Way Academy & Nursery with a prompt 7:00 pm start**