

## Hollybush Playing Fields Reopening



Hollybush Playing Fields reopened on 17 July 2022 and a lovely time was had by all those who attended. The children seemed to love the new play equipment and it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves. Many people brought picnics and had their faces painted.

It was a very hot and sunny day, perfect for a picnic at the park! We hope to make the picnic an annual parish event so look out for more information next year.



## Berkswich Parish Council

### Chair - Cllr Sue Francis

01785 665490

Main Road

### Vice-Chair - Cllr Malcolm

Millichap

01785 664036

Village Gardens

### Cllr Margaret Crossland

01785 664793

Holly Drive

### Cllr Graham Kilford

01785 665334

Main Road

### Cllr Tim Luker

07960 043412

The Rise

### Cllr Ann Millichap

01785 664036

Village Gardens

### Cllr Caroline Pearson

01785 661113

Village Gardens

### Cllr Ben Rowell

07885 697148

Congreve Close

### Cllr Alan Taylor

01785 664473

Village Gardens

**Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer** - Sue Fullwood

[berkswichclerk@gmail.com](mailto:berkswichclerk@gmail.com)

07871 645232

To subscribe to our Newsletter emails please email

[berkswichpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:berkswichpcnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Staffordshire County Councillor

Cllr John Francis

01785 665490

### Stafford Borough Councillor

Cllr Andy Cooper

01889 881895



[berkswichpc.co.uk](http://berkswichpc.co.uk)



# Berkswich Parish Council NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2022



**Berkswich Parish Councillors would like to wish residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023**

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading the updates of what is going on in our lovely parish. In an effort to cut Parish Council printing and delivery costs, this will be the last newsletter that is delivered to all homes in the parish. Future newsletters will be published on our website [berkswichpc.co.uk](http://berkswichpc.co.uk). If you wish to be added to our email distribution list so that we can notify you when new Newsletters are published please email [berkswichpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:berkswichpcnewsletter@gmail.com). We will also publicise new Newsletters on our Facebook page and put hard copies on our noticeboards. If you are unable to access the internet and still wish to receive a hard copy we will be able to accommodate this—please contact Sue, the Clerk using the details on the back page.

## Proposed Development at Land off Old Croft Road

As we go to press, consultation regarding a proposed development for 40 dwellings off land next to 65 Old Croft Road is being undertaken by Stafford Borough Council. Many parish residents have strong feelings on the matter and around 60 members of the public attended the Parish Council meeting on 1 November to share their views. Berkswich Parish Council has objected to the proposals and advise residents to track the application on the Borough Council website to keep themselves up to date with the proposals.



## The Queen's Green Canopy

We were all very saddened by the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. HM The King has asked that The Queen's Green Canopy initiative is continued so that trees can be planted in memorial of her. We plan to plant an English oak tree over the next few months at Hollybush Playing Fields in memory of The Queen. We will publish the details when we have found a suitable tree.



## Walton Coppice Update

Our contractors have submitted the planning application to Stafford Borough Council to reduce the crowns of the large oak trees which have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on them. They will be planting 2750 hawthorn whips along the fenceline in Autumn to complete the hedgerow.

## School Lane Trees

The Parish Council recently commissioned a report into the condition of the trees along School Lane in Walton on the Hill. The report recommended that several of the trees should be felled or pruned and we are currently seeking quotes from arboricultural companies to undertake the work.

## Precept for 2023/24

You may be aware that the Parish Council gets the majority of its funding through a precept that is included in your council tax bill. We are very aware that residents' budgets are getting ever-tighter as a result of high inflation and have tried to cut back our budget as much as possible for the next financial year, for example by not printing and delivering newsletters. This year we will increase the precept by around 8% - based on band D properties, this will mean an increase from £32.31 in 2022/23 to £34.88 annually, a £2.57 annual increase. As our costs are also increasing, we will use financial reserves to make up the remainder of our budget.

## The History of the Parish of Berkswich Final Part

There are a number of interesting buildings in the Parish including 8 listed structures. 14, The Village, Walton on the Hill is a 17<sup>th</sup> century building. Inside are exposed timber-framing and two bressumer fireplaces. It has been Grade II listed since 1987.

The Grade II listed Smithy at The Village, Walton on the Hill, stands at the side of the old main road from Holyhead to London along which the Holyhead Coach first ran in 1785. Opposite is the old Village Pound and there is also an 18<sup>th</sup> century water pump just further along the road.



Milford Hall is an 18<sup>th</sup> century Grade II listed large Georgian-style house, which was once the seat of Richard Bird Levett Esq.

Milford Bridge (no.105) is a late 18<sup>th</sup> century structure designed by James Brindley and crosses the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal.

Walton Bridge (no. 104) is considered to be early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and also crosses the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal.



The aqueduct to the west of Holdiford Bridge in Milford is thought to be early 19<sup>th</sup> century and carries the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal over the River Sow. It has four segmental arches.

Holdiford Bridge itself is thought to be late 18<sup>th</sup> century and carries traffic over the River Sow between Milford and Tixall.



Stafford Lodges at the entrance to Shugborough Hall were designed by Samuel Wyatt. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Wyatt remodelled and extended Shugborough Hall for Viscount Anson.