

Land off Old Croft Road

The Planning Application for 40 dwellings at land off Old Croft Road was turned down by Stafford Borough Council's planning committee on 21 February 2023 for many reasons including that the applicant had not demonstrated a defined need for housing in the location, it would undermine community bonds, there was insufficient information about access visibility and the proximity to Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. All the documents relating to the application can be viewed through the [Planning Public Access](#) page on the SBC website. We will keep an eye out for any future appeals.

Berkswich Parish Council

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Vice-Chair - Cllr Malcolm Millichap 01785 664036 Village Gardens	Cllr Tim Luker 07960 043412 The Rise	Cllr Ben Rowell 07885 697148 Congreve Close
Cllr Margaret Crossland 01785 664793 Holly Drive	Cllr Ann Millichap 01785 664036 Village Gardens	Cllr Alan Taylor 01785 664473 Village Gardens

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Berkswich Parish Council NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



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Welcome to our Spring newsletter. We have now stopped printing and delivering our newsletter to homes in the parish unless people specifically request a printed copy. This is to help the environment through saving paper and to save Parish Council money spent on printing costs. If you would like to be added to our distribution list to receive an email newsletter please email berkswichpcnewsletter@gmail.com. If you would like to receive a printed copy through your door please contact the Clerk using the contact details on the back.

Picnic in the Park

Following the success of our picnic at Hollybush Playing Fields last summer, we will be holding a picnic in celebration of the Coronation on Bank Holiday **Monday 8 May 2023 from 12pm to 2pm** at the Playing Fields again. Please **bring your own picnic** and something to sit on.

There will be a **face-painter**, we will have a craft table where children can make their own **crowns** and a **Stick the Diamond on the Crown** game with prizes. Please come along to celebrate with us and make it a real community event! We hope for good weather, but please follow our **Facebook** page for any last-minute changes. Parking is limited so please come on foot if possible.



Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Tree



An English Oak tree has been planted at Holly-bush Playing Fields in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Cllr Alan Taylor unveiled the plaque on Sunday 19 February 2023 at 2.30 pm and explained

the background for the people who attended.

Thanks go to Cllr Taylor for all the work he has done on this project.



Walton Coppice Update

The Parish Council have been successful in obtaining a grant to plant and reinforce the boundary hedge around Walton Coppice to improve security, biodiversity and the range of habitat. The hedgerow will be a great benefit to the site boundary as it will provide continuity of habitat and make it easier for wildlife to further colonise the area. A condition of the grant funding is that the work is complete before the end of March 2023 so watch this space!

School Lane Trees

Following a tree condition report commissioned by the Parish Council last year, a road closure has been applied for to allow work to be done to the trees along School Lane, Walton on the Hill. It is hoped that the work can be undertaken on 19 and 20 April 2023 and that it will be complete within two working days.

Four diseased trees are due to be felled and removed, and other trees are due to be reduced by 3m in height. We know the trees are an important part of the character of the lane and wish to prolong the life of the healthy trees. The contractors who will be undertaking the work are liaising with the Highways Authority and electricity network on our behalf.



Parish Council Elections

Parish Council Elections are held every four years and 2023 is an election year. People who wish to be Parish Councillors must complete nomination forms and submit them to Stafford Borough Council's Returning Officer by 4pm on Tuesday 4 April. Berkswich Parish Council has 10 seats so if there have been 10 or less nominations there is no need for a poll to be held, all nominees become councillors. If there are 11 or more nominations, a poll will be held on Thursday 4 May 2023.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact our Clerk at berkswichclerk@gmail.com for more information or visit [The Electoral Commission](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk) website.

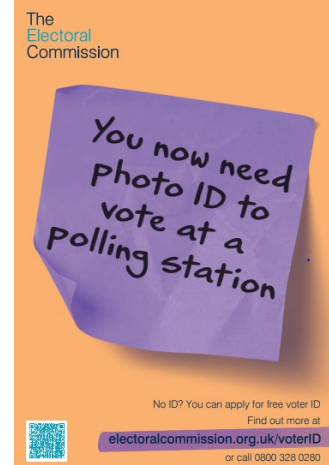
Parish Council Meetings

Berkswich Parish Council usually meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm at Walton Village Hall (except January and August - check our website or noticeboards for confirmation). There is a session for the public to raise issues at the start of every meeting and all residents are welcome to attend. Members of the public can stay to observe the rest of the meeting if they wish to, but cannot take part in the meeting itself.

Allotments

A local resident has enquired if the Parish Council could set up an allotment garden in the parish. In order to decide whether to explore the matter further we would like to establish if there is strong enough local demand. If you would be interested in taking an allotment if they became available please let our Clerk know at

berkswichclerk@gmail.com. Please note that the Parish Council does not have any land at the moment that could be used for allotments and if there is enough latent demand it could take several years before they were set up.



MAKE A
CHANGE
BECOME A
COUNCILLOR