

The Creswell Chronicles

Keeping You In Touch With Creswell Parish Council

January - April 2016

Issue No: 47

Safety Concerns Result in Tree Changes

Recently, the Parish Council were approached by a resident who asked permission to plant a tree on public land in the Parish. The Parish Council were more than happy to start the process for them, and, as sometimes happens in these cases, a hornets nest was opened.

As matters progressed, it became clear that, despite the Parish Council having gone through all the necessary procedures at the time, and having the paperwork to prove it, County Council records do not have any mention of the existence of any roadside trees alongside Creswell Grove. This is a particular disappointment to councillors and residents who were involved in securing and planting the trees. The Parish Council even received an award from Stafford Borough Council for the project.

However, despite their error, the County Council WILL NOT accept any liability for the trees and have made it clear that any liability rests with the person who planted the trees. In this case, the Parish Council.

In this litigious age that we live in, liability for such matters is particularly onerous. Ranging from the obvious 'branch breaking and falling' to 'slipping on berries or fruit' or 'root damage', the costs for insuring against these issues are very onerous and beyond the capabilities of a parish the size of Creswell, especially at a time when we are working hard to reduce the cost of the local precept.

As a result, the Parish Council have identified the trees that pose the most significant risk and these will be removed in the next few days and weeks. Discussions will then continue about whether the trees can be replaced with varieties that pose less of a risk. The remaining trees will also be assessed and may be removed at a subsequent date.

We are also aware that some residents have, in the past, planted trees in public places. If you are concerned about the risks of liability in these cases, please contact the Clerk, who will be happy to assist you.

We are really very sorry that we are having to take this action, but with the information we have, it is unavoidable if we are to protect Creswell taxpayers from future risks.

Amenity Visit

An amenity visit is an opportunity for residents to get rid of extra waste that doesn't normally fit into their bin.

A refuse lorry visits the Parish for a couple of hours on each occasion. For more information, please contact the Clerk.

The lorry will be in Wilkes Wood from 10am-12pm (2 hour duration) on:

16th April 2016

9th July 2016

1st October 2016

Continuing Parking Concerns

I think we can all agree that this winter has been one of the wettest that we can remember for some years, making grassed areas even more unstable than usual.

We know that parking is at an absolute premium and we won't criticise any individual for finding somewhere to park. However, we do have a duty to again remind residents that the grassed area alongside Creswell Grove belongs to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department. They have recently refused a request to re-seed some of the areas due to the extensive damage to the grass and have reminded us that they will, at some stage, look to repairing the grass and then charging residents for the work.

Creswell Parish – 'The Gateway to Stafford'

Why not come to a Parish Council meeting?

Creswell Parish Council hold our meetings on a monthly basis. They are all open to the public and everyone receives a warm welcome, and a cup of tea!!

Meetings are at 7.30pm and are held at Tillington Manor Primary School, Young Avenue, Stafford. ST16 1PW

The dates of upcoming meetings and the minutes of previous meetings are available on the Parish Council website and in the notice boards.

Can You Support Our Local Library?

Holmcroft Library are appealing for volunteers. If you can help, please contact them on 01785 253908 or holmcroft.library@staffordshire.gov.uk.

Creswell Parish Council Annual Public Meeting

will be held on **Monday 25th April 2016 at 7pm**
in the Main School Hall, Tillington Manor School, Young Avenue,
Holmcroft, ST16 1PW.

This is your opportunity to meet your Parish Councillors and ask questions and find out what is happening in your local area.

Previous Annual Meetings have featured presentations from developers such as Taylor Wimpey (Marston Gate) and Strawsons (Creswell Grove field) and the local Speedwatch team.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided – all are welcome

Primepoint Parking

Following a few years of difficulty, the painting of double yellow lines has begun on the Primepoint site.

This is the result of a considerable amount of hard work from our Clerk, local councilors, council officers and local businesses.

It is hoped that the lines will help to alleviate the ongoing parking issues on the site, especially overnight lorry parking and the subsequent left overs!

Please continue to let the councillors know of any issues you notice whilst on the park.

To find out more, go to:
www.creswellparishcouncil.co.uk

Creswell Parish Council

*Please contact us about any
issues of concern*

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