

District Report from Cllr. Keith Flunder Jan. 2026

Firstly Happy New Year to Endon PC members and residents

1. LGR Update and summary:-

- a) On Nov. 20th Option D was passed by a special District Assembly to be put forward as the SMDC preferred option. Included in the submission was an analysis of option E, which was the East / West option put forward by the County Council. Overall, there is no option (5 in all) that doesn't include the SMDC District area not being included in a new Unitary Council with the Stoke-on-Trent City area.
 - b) Myself, and the other Champions and SMDC officers etc. are looking at organising locality group meetings early in the new year, with an agreed updated presentation to go through. As well as summarising the process of producing locality plans, Town and Parish plans will also be outlined, spread sheets to help Parish and Town councils to log their assets will also be provided. These will include public areas and street furniture. It is hoped that this process will help them look at their own assets and support their own locality strategic plans.
 - c) Future meetings and possible visits to parishes are also available.
 - d) There was another meeting with the LGR/locality champions on Jan. 7th with the SMDC officers. The way forward and rough timetable in providing support to Parish and Town councils, were discussed. Along with support in writing strategic plans by 2027, for the following 5 years, with a capital asset list and street furniture list. This will also include any agreed plans for each locality area.
2. The Parish Assembly and the SPCA will support Parish and Town councils over the coming years to produce their own plans.
 3. Brown Bin charges will start from April 1st, 2026, along with a new food pick up services for the remaining 2 years while SMDC is planned to continue. I will work with the other district councillors to provide more details over the coming months.
 4. I have asked and will report back on the progress for some of the many training courses being delivered by the SPCA, to be considered to be nationally recognised (such as Btec quals). Some of these could be related to event safety, planning, finance etc.
 5. Planning committee meeting will be on January 22nd, there is also a training session for members of the planning committee on Jan. 8th.
 6. At Monday's community scrutiny committee it was agreed that a training session for district (and parish?) councillors regarding the idea of BNG and the SMDC area having some land banks in the future will be made available.

7. I have received and will follow up on issues around grit bins and grit piles (this is a County responsibility) and access issues to a local farm.
8. I have supported a request from the local Girl Guides for some funding from my CCIF fund and there is still a small amount (£250) left if any other organisations are interested. I am hoping to support a new playgroup for SEN children as well.
9. There is a session regarding the safety of councillors and if I attend, I'll see if its appropriate for other councillors.
10. There is a footpath plan being looked at by the Counties footpath team and committee. I will see if this affects Endon (and Brown Edge) and get back to the clerks.
11. The police and other road safety awareness organisations are promoting road safety issues over the coming months.
12. There is a Full Council meeting on Jan 15th and a Service Delivery meeting on Jan. 21st over the coming week.
13. There are a couple of surgeries planned in January to March, dates to be confirmed and I will be attending quite a few events and gatherings over the coming weeks. This includes litter picks., speed watch and other local events.
14. Questions ????