

## **ST LUKE'S SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**

Members of our Endon and Brown Edge CSW Community Speed Watch team recently visited St Luke's CE Academy to deliver our third school assembly on road safety — alongside our fantastic local Lollipop Lady. We're passionate about making our roads safer, and that starts with educating the next generation. The pupils were brilliant — asking thoughtful questions, sharing what they've seen at the roadside, and showing a real interest in how our volunteers help keep speeds down in the community. It was especially encouraging to hear that many of them already recognise our team from when we're out monitoring traffic.

As a School Governor at St Luke's, it was also great for me personally to see the pupils so engaged with the message and supporting the work we're doing together to promote road safety. A big thank you to the teachers and staff for supporting the message and continuing the learning in the classroom. Our volunteers proudly give up their own time to deliver these sessions, and we're working with local schools to inspire the next generation to stay safe and respect our local roads. Safer roads start with community action — and we're proud to play our part.

## **STATEMENT ON RECENT ROAD INCIDENTS**

In the last two weeks, our community has seen two serious hit-and-run incidents at school run time on the A53 Leek Road through Endon. One child was struck outside The Plough. An adult was also hit outside St Luke's CE Academy while collecting their child from school. By sheer luck, neither incident resulted in life-changing injuries — but it easily could have. That highlights just how important road safety is as a local issue in our community. Our Endon and Brown Edge CSW Community Speed Watch volunteers continue to raise awareness and recently helped secure new 30mph signage and additional safety measures. But signage alone won't stop reckless driving.

The importance of having **three crossing patrol wardens** along this busy stretch of the A53 cannot be overstated. I will be seeking firm reassurances from Staffordshire County Council that these posts are fully protected — especially following road safety budget cuts in the 2026–27 Budget.

It is deeply frustrating that dangerous speeding and reckless driving continue on a road packed with homes, schools and families. As your local district councillors, Cllr Keith Flunder and I will continue working tirelessly, alongside local residents, local schools, Endon with Stanley Parish Council, Brown Edge Parish Council, and other partners, to push to make our local roads safer.

## **UPDATE ON BIDDULPH RECYCLING CENTRE**

A number of local residents have contacted me regarding Biddulph Recycling Centre on Bemersley Road and it was raised as an issue at our recent Brown Edge Parish Council meeting. I've spoken with Staffordshire County Council and received an update following the recent fire at the site.

The fire caused significant damage to the site's drainage system. As a result, some waste streams have been temporarily suspended to ensure the site remains compliant with its environmental permit. This precaution is necessary to prevent any potentially contaminated runoff from entering the damaged drainage system.

The site handles some waste that may contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). These are highly toxic chemicals that do not break down naturally and can pose serious risks to human health and the environment. Because of this, strict regulations require that any runoff from areas handling such waste is fully filtered before being discharged. Without proper filtration in place, there would be a risk of breaching both POPs regulations and the site's environmental permit.

To address the issue, a temporary above-ground pump and filtration system is expected to be installed. This system will collect runoff in a holding tank and filter it before releasing clean water, allowing the site to resume normal operations while remaining compliant with environmental requirements.

Based on the information received, it is hoped that the site will fully reopen by the end of this week, with reopening taking place as soon as it is safe to do so.

In addition, a full drainage survey is scheduled for later in March, which will inform the design and installation of a permanent long-term solution.

I raised concerns about the recent increase in fly-tipping, potentially caused by the restrictions currently in place. Staffordshire County Council, working with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, continues to monitor incidents. Environmental crime will also be discussed at the next Staffordshire Sustainability Board meeting.

Thank you to local residents for your patience and understanding while work continues to safely restore operations at Biddulph Recycling Centre.

## **SUPPORT FOR ENDON ART GROUP**

We're absolutely thrilled to support Endon Community Art Group with a £75 boost from our Councillors' Community Initiative Fund to help purchase new art equipment! For over two years, this fantastic group has been bringing creativity to life at Endon St Luke's Church. Meeting once a month on Saturdays (10.30am–12.30pm) at the Chapter House, they've created a welcoming space where art – and friendships – flourish. Open to all ages and abilities, the group is perfect whether you're picking up a pencil for the first time or you're a seasoned painter. Many members started as complete beginners and have grown in confidence and skill thanks to the supportive atmosphere.

It's more than just an art group – it's community spirit at its very best. A HUGE thank you to Nicola Shipley and Sue Gibbons for the passion, time and energy they pour into making this group such a success every single month. Endon is lucky to have you!

## **COMMONWEALTH DAY EVENT**

It was an honour to meet Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Colonel Toby H. M. Gaddum VR, at the Staffordshire Moorlands Commonwealth Day Service held in Flash — the highest village in the United Kingdom, set within the stunning Peak District. We came together to celebrate Commonwealth Day, recognising the friendship, shared values, and diversity of the nations that make up the Commonwealth. A meaningful occasion celebrating unity, community, and the enduring ties between Commonwealth nations.

## **CITIZENS ADVICE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE**

Thank you to Citizens Advice North Staffordshire for an excellent presentation at SMDC Community Panel and for the incredible work they do supporting local residents across the Staffordshire Moorlands. Their impact is truly remarkable — with around 170 staff and 40 volunteers, the team has supported 33,000 local people across North Staffordshire in the past year alone, helping resolve 115,000 advice issues. That's a 22% rise in demand for their services, showing just how vital their work is for our communities. Thank you to everyone involved for the difference they make every single day.

## **UPDATE ON ROAD SAFETY MEASURES**

Great news for our community! New 30mph repeater signs are now in place from the bottom of Clay Lake, Endon through to the end of High Lane, Brown Edge — alongside larger STOP signs and new parking restrictions installed this week.

This has been a true community effort. Huge credit to local residents, our dedicated Endon and Brown Edge CSW Community Speed Watch volunteers, Endon with Stanley Parish Council, Brown Edge Parish Council, our local schools, and especially the residents of Clay Lake who have tirelessly campaigned for stronger road safety measures.

Since July 2022, regular Community Speed Watch sessions have helped shine a spotlight on speeding concerns and raise the profile of road safety as a top priority in our area — particularly following tragic road incidents that deeply affected our community.

That consistent, visible action has helped build the case for change. These improvements follow years of work and pressure from Cllr Keith Flunder and myself — proof that persistence pays off. It can take time to get projects over the line, but safer roads for our community make every hard mile worth it.

We will keep working with Staffordshire County Council Highways, our County Councillor, and partners across Brown Edge and Endon to push for further safety improvements. Safer roads. Stronger community. Action all year round.

### **ENDON COMMUNITY ORCHARD EXPANDED**

We had an incredible tree-planting session with the Canal & River Trust along our beautiful Caldon Canal — expanding the Endon Community Orchard to a staggering 150 fruit trees stretching over a mile! Top teamwork by everyone planting an amazing range of 25 apple, pear, plum, damson, green gage, cherry, quince, crab apple and medlar trees, supplied by Proctors Nursery Ltd. All thanks to funding from the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Community Climate Change and Nature Fund and my Councillor's Community Initiative Fund. It's now officially the largest and longest community orchard in the Staffordshire Moorlands — and it's all thanks to our phenomenal volunteers who also maintain it all year round!

### **30MPH BIN STICKERS**

We've been out delivering 30mph bin stickers to homes on Clay Lake, High Lane and Breach Road — an idea I put forward as part of our drive to spotlight the speed limit along this busy main road through Endon and Brown Edge. A big thank you to Staffordshire Police and Endon and Brown Edge CSW for helping us secure the stickers. If you've received one, please pop it on your wheelie bin and play your part in reminding drivers to slow down. Together, we can help make our local roads safer for everyone.

### **PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT TOP OF STATION ROAD — IMPLEMENTED**

Parking during the school run has been a nightmare on Station Road for many years. Staffordshire County Council Highways has painted double yellow lines at the junction of the A53 Leek Road and the top of Station Road, Endon outside Endon Methodist Church. This is following lots of campaigning on road safety by local residents, our Endon and Brown Edge CSW team, our two parish councils and local schools. Cllr Keith Flunder and I have pushed for more road safety measures over a number of years. Credit where credit is due, it's good to see action being taken.

Parking too close to the junction has been:

- Obstructing traffic
- Blocking visibility
- Creating turning hazards
- Putting pedestrians — especially school children and vulnerable residents — at risk

We will continue our drive to make our local roads in Brown Edge and Endon safer for everyone.

### **COMMUNITY LENT LUNCH**

What a fantastic Lent Lunch we had at St. Luke's, Endon! Our community came together on Ash Wednesday to share laughter, friendship, and plenty of delicious homemade goodness — from warming soups and freshly baked bread rolls to cheese, biscuits, and fruit! And the cherry on top? An amazing £245.50 raised for Leek and District Foodbank! A wonderful start to Lent!

### **ENDON BOOK & JIGSAW SWAP**

One of the very best things about life in Endon is our incredible community spirit — with local events all year round bringing people together for good chats, great company, and fabulous coffee & cake! It was a pleasure to pop into the Coffee Pot Café at Endon Methodist Church, alongside their brilliant Book & Jigsaw Swap — such a simple idea that brings so many smiles. And the best part? Raising valuable funds to help keep the church building thriving at the heart of our community. What a fantastic turnout!

### **STATE OF ROAD BY ENDON WELL AND THE BROOK**

The road by Endon Well and around Endon Brook has deteriorated rapidly over the past month — and residents are rightly concerned. I've met with local residents and formally reported the issue to our County Councillor Bob Egginton and the Staffordshire County Council Highways team (incident 4480976). The blocked gully outside the Well now appears to be cleared, and thanks to volunteers from Endon Well Dressing for stepping up

to repair the damaged overflow pipe. Some residents have told me they believe the gully became blocked following the installation of the unsightly signage by Staffordshire County Council that was later removed last year, and have asked that this be properly investigated to ensure the issue does not recur. The heavy water overflows towards Endon Brook and down The Village have already left potholes and uneven, potentially dangerous surfaces — a real risk for pedestrians, drivers and farm vehicles, especially in icy weather. I've pushed for urgent repairs and will keep pressing until this stretch of road is made safe. Endon's historic village centre — which welcomes thousands each May for Endon Well Dressing Festival — deserves better.

### **ASB AND SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR ON STATION ROAD/ORFORD ROAD**

Over the past few weeks, there have been incidents of ASB and suspicious behaviour on Station Road and Orford Road, and other nearby parts of Endon. Those involved were wearing hoods and face coverings. These incidents have been reported to Staffordshire Police and to me. However, we need your help. If you witness anything similar, report it to the police immediately. Every report matters. Staffordshire Police are gathering intelligence on these incidents in our community — but they can only act on what gets reported. Please can local residents who spot any further issues to report them to Staffordshire Police:

### **LOCAL TREE GIVEAWAY**

It was brilliant to see such a long queue for the free tree giveaway at Deep Hayes Country Park! A wonderful mix of hawthorn, rowan, hazel, silver birch, crab apple and whitebeam is now heading off to be planted in gardens and community green spaces across the Moorlands — a real boost for local nature. Huge thanks to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Sustainability Board for making it happen!