

District Report from Cllr. Keith Flunder August 2026

For the Endon Parish Council meeting August 11th 2026

If there are any concerns or questions that parish councillors wish to ask me, then please phone me.

1. LGR Update and summary: -

- a) Firstly, thank you to all the Councillors who took part in the LGR meeting at the village hall on July 27th. The resultant submission to the Mutual Ventures consultation survey has put the Parish Council in the best place looking at the future under a new Unitary Council for the North of the Staffordshire.
- b) The Government have announced that the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Area will be part of the new North Staffordshire Unitary Council area including Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council area and Stoke City Council Unitary area. This will only give 9 months or less to arrange the election of the new authorities roughly based on the old County Council divisions.
- c) The next stage in the SMDC district Locality Plan preparation is the closing of the initial consultation period (this was been extended to Wed. August 5th at my request). This will allow Endon, Brown Edge and Bagnall parish councils to submit their responses to Mutual Venture. There is still quite a lot of work to do including the arranging of three themed face to face meetings.
- d) Another champions meeting will be held before the final three separate subject lead meetings, to ensure that Health and wellbeing is included for public sector organisations, tourism & culture and re-generation / infrastructure (transport) will also be included.
- e) Parish and Town councils then need to log both their physical assets and community groups and activities. These will include public areas and street furniture etc. It is hoped that this process will help them look at their own assets and support their own local strategic plans, which can be completed in detail before March 2027.
- f) Future meetings and possible visits to parishes are also available. Although it might be best to get a report on the agenda from the planned locality meetings..
- g) I'm still hopeful that there will be some assistance from SMDC, as to the best way to transfer any community assets in the remaining time period.

2. The Parish Assembly and the SPCA will support Parish and Town councils over the coming years to produce their own plans. This was agreed at the recent SPCA executive meetings in Stafford. The SPCA executive meeting was held on Monday 15th of June, another exec. meeting is planned for Sept.

3. The Leek Leisure Centre is opening in August and The Nicholson Institute project (£3.2 Million) is now on-going with the library now operating on the ground floor of Moorlands House, until the building is ready to be moved back into. This is due for completion later in the year (possibly early 2027?). There has also been more UKSPF funding made available (just under £1 million) for other projects around the Staffordshire Moorlands partly related to Arts and Culture.
4. Brown Bin charges started from June 29th 2026, for residents in the SMDC district. Residents need to register as soon as possible if they want their bin to still be collected. The food bin service has received complaints, and the services team are contacting the local residents who have had issues. A meeting with the officers and cabinet members concerned has resulted in more awareness of the issues across Brown Edge and Endon.
5. The Green Space maps have been delivered to Endon PC.
6. Other local projects I'm currently looking into, include playgrounds / cycle/skate parks and parking areas to support local activities and community projects.
7. The district council has been placed in 'special measures', meaning applicants for larger applications can now go directly to the national Planning Inspectorate if they wish. SMDC officers are looking at how these measures can be lifted as soon as possible. The next Planning Committee meeting is on August 13th. I have been lobbied about the application for development along Breech Lane, and an enforcement notice is currently being appealed.
8. The CIF fund has now been reopened for 2026/27.
9. Other future and recent meetings will include a street furniture working group meeting, a film about climate emergency at Endon Village Hall and local LGR meetings.
10. There are a couple of surgeries planned in Aug. and Sept, dates to be promoted. The surgery meeting on Sat. 31st had residents raising concerns about the planning issues along Breech Road and road side clearance.
11. Questions? Please call me on 07836 526834 or send me an email at keith.flunder@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk