District Report from Cllr. Keith Flunder November 2026

For the Endon Parish Council meeting November 10th 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) The Government have announced a pause on the LGR process and will be re-assessing / reviewing our area's / Staffs CC, the process and result. This means that the District Councils elections will go ahead in May 2027 and not the planned Unitary elections.
   b) The devolution process will continue over the coming years, final details need to be confirmed.
   c) The Government have announced that the LGR option for Staffordshire will continue to be reviewed until January 2027?? I'm still waiting to hear what the District Council will do in the mean time.
   d) Parish and Town councils will still 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 during 2027.
   e) Future meetings and possible visits to parishes are still available.
   f) The Parish Assembly Networking event was on this Friday Oct. 9th and I managed to talk to Highways, planning and other departments, about issues regarding Parish Councils. I also talked to many other councillors.
   g) I'm still hopeful that there will be some assistance from SMDC, as to the best way to transfer any community assets for future plans, now there is more time to look at projects.

2. The Parish Assembly and the SPCA will support Parish and Town councils over the coming years to produce their own plans. The AGM will take place in Uttoxeter with exhibition on Nov. 23rd? Recommend for clerks and possibly some councillors to attend, if they have the time.
3. The last Service Delivery meeting was on Wednesday Nov. 4th in the evening.
4. The Leek Leisure Centre has opened. The Nicholson Institute project (£3.2 Million) has ended and the opening was on October 29th.
5. The Arts and Culture strategy is currently being delivered and there are bi-monthly updates to a working group.
6. Brown Bin charges and the new food waste collect services are now running more smoothly. Residents still need to register, if they want their brown bin to be collected. These services are now being monitored, and a report will be coming

to a future services delivery scrutiny committee meeting. About 54% of house holds are now using the service.

7. The Green Space maps have been delivered to the clerk and councillors.
8. Other local projects I'm currently looking into, include playgrounds / cycle/skate parks and parking areas to support local activities and community projects.
9. The District Council was forced to accept the new planning 'rules' and the choice of district councillors to call in planning applications has now been removed. I'm / we are not sure how this will affect future planning committees? Also it was passed by the District Assembly, that a strongly worded letter was sent to the Government underlining the removal of local democracy from local people!!
10. 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 percentage against the appeals is coming down and should be below 10% by the end of the year. The next Planning Committee meeting is on December 10th.
11. The CIF fund has now been reopened for 2026/27, with 3 applications being processed / agreed.
12. I and other councillors are continuing to be concerned about Cllr. Joe Porter.
13. There are a couple of surgeries planned in the coming months, dates to be promoted...

    Questions? Please call me on 07836 526834 or send me an email at keith.flunder@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk