



Activities of the Parish Council

The Parish of Audley is the largest in area in the District of Newcastle-under-Lyme, covering some 2717 hectares. The Parish has a population of around 8000 and comprises 7 distinctly separate villages and many small hamlets. Audley Rural Parish Council is a statutory elected local authority, which acts as a voice for local opinion by keeping in close and regular contact with its electorate and provides a focus for voluntary organisations in the area. The Parish Council comprises of three wards: Audley, Bignall End and Halmer End which are represented by a total of 15 councillors, who volunteer their time on an unpaid basis:

Audley Ward	Bignall End	Halmer End
Ms Anna Borowski Baskeyfield Mrs Valerie Pearson Mrs Nicola Myatt Mrs Catherine Richardson	Mr Nick Hayes* Mr Deane Jarvis** Mr David Butler (Lab) Mr Ron Kinnersley (Ind) Mr Nick Crisp Mr Matthew Whitmore (Lab)	Mr Rob Moody Mr Mick Joynson Mr Chris C Cooper Mr Ron Garlick VACANT (as at Feb 2020)
<i>*Chair of the Parish Council</i>	<i>**Vice Chair of the Parish Council</i>	

POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

From December 2012, the Parish Council has greater powers to do things under the General Power of Competence in the Localism Act 2011. There is an annual budget of approx. £160k for operational costs and also special projects. The budget is raised through the Council Tax (precept) plus a contribution from the Borough Council, which is used to provide and maintain a number of things across the Parish such as:

- 🛖 Bus shelters
- 🚗 2 car parks
- 🛖 2 war memorials
- 📋 8 notice boards
- 🏟️ 8 playing fields and play areas
- 🪑 75 seats across the Parish
- 🚶 Footpaths within land in the ownership of the Parish Council
- 🎳 Bowling Clubs
- 🌱 80 allotment plots across two sites
- 🦋 2 wildlife areas

When necessary, the Parish Council also work with a number of partners to address issues raised which are outside of their control such as the village centre car parks and parking issues and anti-social behaviour.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Newcastle Borough Council is the local planning authority for this area. Legally the Borough does not have a statutory obligation to consult with the Parish Council but does so because it has a policy of consulting widely on planning applications made to it. The Parish Council is given the opportunity to make its opinions known and to bring to the attention of the Borough Council local issues of which officers may not be aware. It is the duty of the Parish Council generally to represent the views and concerns of all residents of the parish of Audley, by drawing on the local knowledge of councillors to reflect the concerns and opinions of residents. If you have a concern about an issue or a specific planning application, there are several steps you can take.

- Raise the matter with a Parish Councillor or the clerk. Your concerns will then be raised at the meeting when the application is discussed.
- You have the right to attend the planning meeting yourself and raise your concerns during the public participation session at the start of the meeting.
- Most importantly you must make your concerns with regard to a specific planning application known directly to the Borough Council, as it is this body that finally determines the application.
- If a planning application has significant implications in the local area parishioners are advised to submit individual objections to the Borough Council.

A petition only counts as one objection, regardless of the number of signatures it contains. Most applications are determined by officers of the council, who interpret the requirements of the Local Plan, but the Parish Council works closely with the Borough Councillors representing the Parish. They are able to “call in” applications for determination by the Planning Committee when there is serious local concern.

MORE INFORMATION

More detailed information on what has been achieved over the last year or so can be obtained from the last Chair’s Annual Report or by looking through the minutes from every meeting on the Parish Council’s website.

You can visit our website at anytime <http://audleyparishcouncil.org> or visit the 8 noticeboards across the Parish for more info, agendas and minutes.

You can contact Mrs C Withington, Parish Clerk as follows:

Phone: 07901 692414 Email: audleyparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
Post: The Croft, Barthomley Road, Audley, Staffs, ST7 8HU

We are here to help, but in order to be effective you need to let us know if you have any issues or concerns relating to the Parish. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Council. We usually meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7pm, at venues located around the Parish – please see the noticeboards and the website for the exact details. Residents are able to address the council during the public participation session.

Parish Council Public surgeries on a 1-2-1 basis with a Parish Councillor will now be held from January 2013 at 6.30pm to 7pm, finishing just prior to the start of every Council meeting. Additionally there are now Police/Parish liaison surgeries available on the third Wednesday of every month from 10.00am at Audley Community Centre, Castle Hill – visit <http://www.staffordshire.police.uk/> for more information.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Staffordshire Police – Non Emergency Number is 101 – please report ALL crimes seen or after, as this helps to target Police resources in the area appropriately. **In an emergency dial 999**

Staffordshire County Council – 0300 111 8000 for **Libraries, Social Services, Schools, Street lights, pot holes, standing water or highway matters**

Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council – 01782 717717 for **Leisure Centres, Cemeteries, Bins, Council Tax, Business Tax, Planning matters**. Streetscene should be contacted to report **all litter, fly tipping, dog waste issues** etc – 01782 742500