GRANT SUCCESS FOR BREWOOD PLAYING FIELD

Christmas came early in 2011 for the Brewood Park Working Party when The Veolia Environmental Trust awarded a grant of £19,000 towards the redevelopment of the play equipment at Brewood playing field. This represents a valuable contribution towards the project which will include the provision of new, interesting and challenging play equipment for under 8s as well as an aerial runway, nest swing and youth shelter for the older children and young people of the local community.

The application to The Veolia Environmental Trust for grant aid was made by Brewood and Coven Parish Council working in partnership with the Brewood Park Working Party which included representatives of the Brewood Phoenix Youth Group, local Members of the Council and volunteers from the local community. The support given by South Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Action who provided advice and guidance to the Working Party throughout was greatly appreciated. This combined with the support of Brewood Library, local schools and traders who assisted with the community consultation has made this a true Big Society project.

With a total project cost of £36,517 the contribution from The Veolia Environmental Trust made through The Landfill Communities Fund is key to the project getting underway. The £17,517 balance of the project costs will be covered by the Parish Council from funds accumulated for the purpose over the past three years. The site is scheduled to be cleared over the next few weeks with a provisional installation date of the beginning of May.

Executive Director of The Veolia Environmental Trust, Margaret Cobbold says, “It is great we are able to support important community projects such as this through the Landfill Communities Fund. Playgrounds are vital to communities, providing a fun way for children to develop crucial physical and social skills. I am looking forward to seeing the work get underway.” Continued on page 2.

LOCAL COUNCILLOR RECOGNISED IN NEW YEAR’S HONOURS LIST

Chairman of the Parish Council Mr Mac Webb was awarded an MBE for his service to the local community. Many will know Mac for his commitment to Brewood Junior Football Club which he launched in 1975 and his work with the Brewood Parish Sports Association. Since retiring as the village policeman in 1993 Mac has maintained his involvement with Brewood Junior Football Club and the Wolverhampton Sunday Football League as well as representing his local community as a Parish Councillor since June 2005.

New Councillors Co-opted The Council is delighted to welcome two new Parish Councillors Paul Smith for Coven and Linda Tomkins for Coven Heath on to the Council leaving just one vacancy to be filled for Coven. Further details available from the Clerk.
LATEST NEWS........

Olympic Torch Relay – Saturday 30 June will see Great Wyrley and Newtown in Essington welcome the 2012 Olympic Torch. More details of how to join in as a spectator or as a steward will be available on Parish Notice-boards.

Best Kept Village Competition 2012 If all goes to plan all four villages in the Parish will enter the competition this year. With Coven and Brewood contenders for the Best Kept Large Village competition this leaves Bishops Wood and Coven Heath representing the Parish in the Best Kept Small Village competition. The Council is pleased to once again sponsor the village entries and prizes for the children’s poster competition.

This year will see a new co-ordinator, Mr Tony Sloane take up the reins for the Bishops Wood entry; Mrs Jeanette Edwards having stood down following five years as co-ordinator from its first year of entry in 2007. Mrs Edwards, with the support of the local community, has seen the village win twice and be placed in the last three years. The Council is extremely grateful to Mrs Edwards for the support she has given the competition over the years.

The Council wishes all four villages well in their endeavours.

Coven Heath Allotments The demanding grant criteria set by grant funders to ensure any monies made available represent a long term investment, combined with the fact the Council do not own the land concerned, has meant an alternative means of funding an improved path through the allotments is required. In reviewing the forecast balance of reserves available towards the end of the financial year the Parish Council hopes to be able to fund the work to avoid the path deteriorating further.

Following the AGM of the Coven Heath Allotments Association in February Mr Al Higgs was appointed a Chair taking over from Mrs Sandra Meddings who has been the Chair of the Association since it was first formed. The Council would like to thank Mrs Meddings for all her hard work as Chair and looks forward to continue to work with the Association and Mr Higgs who has already submitted proposals to develop raised beds for people with disabilities and ‘taster’ plots for novice gardeners and children.

Millennium Bench, Brewood The Council is extremely grateful to Mr David Pickrell for volunteering to repair the Council’s Millennium bench in Sandy Lane that has needed attention for some time. Mr Pickrell’s assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Adverts, signs and fly-posting – know the rules, don’t risk a fine If you are putting up signs, posters or adverts then you may need planning permission. Some adverts may not but you should always check first. Informal advice can be sought from South Staffordshire Council on 01902 696000 or email planningenforcement@sstaffs.gov.uk.

BREWOOD PLAYING FIELD – continued from page 1

The community consultation that was undertaken last summer also highlighted a need for further over 8's equipment and exercise equipment appropriate for use by young people and adults. As the main project gets underway further funding is being sought by the Parish Council for the provision of a trim trail, two pieces of exercise equipment and, for the over 8s, a jungle climber, spring-rocker and spinner to complete the redevelopment.

As the main project will be completed in this the Diamond Jubilee Year the park is to be renamed the Jubilee Park and to celebrate both the Jubilee and this exciting new facility the community will be invited to a ‘Picnic in the Park’ in June – see local notice-boards and the Council’s web site for more details nearer the date.

Brewood Playing Field Drainage After much deliberation and having considered a number of options to improve the ground quality of the north end of the Council’s playing field in Engleton Lane a practical and cost effective solution has been identified. Contractors have already put in a drainage ditch across the playing field. And work will follow to take excess water out to the highway drain. This now leaves the way clear for a lease to be agreed with Brewood Bowling Club in order that they may seek funding to develop a bowling green and club house.

Perimeter Fencing Having identified a viable solution to the drainage the Council has been able to resurrect its plans of 2009 to use the funding it held to replace the perimeter fencing at the playing field off Engleton Lane. This fencing, having been erected over thirty years ago was deteriorating with broken and rusty railings representing a risk to visitors to the park. The new fencing has now been erected, the kissing gate in Engleton Lane replaced with a pedestrian gate and new double gates erected off Coneybere Gardens.

Unemployed?

Check Out the South Staffs Work Clubs South Staffordshire Council in partnership with local Councillors and agencies has been busy setting up work clubs in South Staffordshire to help local unemployed residents by giving them the skills, knowledge and confidence to be able to access employment.

More details are available from South Staffordshire Council 01902 696000 or visit www.southstaffsworkclubs.co.uk. News from South Staffordshire Council on opportunities for business placements will be available shortly.
**2012 – DIAMOND JUBILEE AND OLYMPIC YEAR**

**What Have You Got Planned To Celebrate?**

Through the grey winter months the attention of the local community and the Parish Council has turned towards the opportunity to celebrate and mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

The Council is making plans to commemorate the Jubilee with ideas that will be around for years to come – tree planting, a Jubilee Walk possibly and as previously mentioned a ‘Picnic in the Park’ to mark the opening of the newly refurbished Brewood Jubilee Park off Engleton Lane. If appropriate sites can be identified at least one ‘Royal Oak’ will be planted in each of the four villages and submitted for inclusion in the ‘Royal Record’, a register of trees planted in commemoration of the Jubilee of which two copies will be published, for Buckingham Palace and the British Library; a similar Royal Record was compiled commemorating planting for King George VI’s Coronation.

With four villages in the Parish and several hamlets, the Council is looking to local residents and community groups to join forces to celebrate the Jubilee and the Olympics through a variety of activities and we’re delighted to say we haven’t been disappointed. Although we are only in February a number of events are already underway in the planning:

- **Street Parties** – whether these are a group of residents getting together in the street, weather permitting and having organised road closures as necessary, or in a local garden with a BBQ and a gazebo, bunting will abound.
- **Planting out of community planters in red, white and blue** by one or more Best Kept Village Working Parties. Hopefully local residents will follow the theme with their hanging baskets and the idea will be further supported by the Parish Council.
- **The Big Lunch with free entry for the elders of Bishops Wood** and tickets available for other family members.
- **The Bishops Wood Scarecrows** will be back again with a Royal or Olympic theme and for those without a scarecrow its hoped gardens and houses will be decorated with bunting so everyone can join in.
- **A Big Jubilee Party at Coven Memorial Hall** - Bishops Wood Jubilee Garden Party.
- **Church family thanks giving service(s)** with refreshments and a Jubilee Concert and celebration.
- **Planting of a variety of trees by children from St John’s First School**.
- **Brewood Junior Football Club Jubilee Tournament.**
- **a collection of memories, pictures and stories of Bishops Wood over the last 60 years.**

The Parish Council would like to create a permanent record of the activities, events and celebrations that are planned by the community in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee – this will make an interesting historical record to be kept alongside similar information held from the Coronation and Golden Jubilee.

Please email, write or phone through details of anything you have planned to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee; it might be something over the Jubilee weekend or at another time. The Council will also be pleased to receive copies of any photos you may have of the activities that take place for inclusion in the historical record and, with your permission, on the Council’s web site.

**Council Precept and Budget 2012 - 2013**

This year the Parish Council has maintained its precept at £185,159 to support a budget of £279,460. On a Band D property this represents a parish rate of £59.

The budgeting process outlines where funds have been set aside for the year ahead as well as when and how much the Council has planned to spend on specific services or projects. Throughout the year the Council then monitors the actual spending against planned spending to ensure its funds are managed effectively.

This year the budget includes provision for Capital and general project work up to the sum of £59,000, 21% of budgeted expenditure. This excludes expenditure to be covered by grant funding and includes £10,000 still held in support of a bowling green in the Parish and £6,000 from the 2009 loan for new fencing, held towards the second phase of the Brewood Park redevelopment.

Village hall grants amounting to £12,500 are provided for including funds to be carried forward from 2011/2012 and loan repayments are due of just under £13,000 relating to the new changing rooms at Coven and fencing at Bishops Wood Jubilee Park and £6,000 from the 2009 loan for new fencing, held towards the second phase of the Brewood Park redevelopment.

Staff salaries account for 26% of the budgeted expenditure and running costs of the Council’s playing fields, allotments and open spaces 11%. Members of the Council do not receive any remuneration other than £20 each year towards phone expenses.
i54 Concerns of Coven Heath Residents Given a Voice

Two residents Doreen Howells and Fred Barrett, accompanied by over fifty other residents, raised the concerns of local residents to South Staffordshire Council a few weeks ago with regard to the need to reduce the noise from increased vehicle movements, to try and get the M54 and A449 resurfaced and to ensure fast growing fir trees are planted to absorb noise. The support of South Staffordshire Council and Mr Gavin Williamson MP in these matters has been greatly appreciated.

Croft House, Coven

Having pursued the matter with South Staffordshire Council, we are pleased to report progress to improve the site is promised by the end May. South Staffs Council will now monitor the situation closely.

Anniversary Celebrations

Mr G. Williamson MP would like to hear of any couples who will be celebrating a momentous wedding anniversary or anyone about to reach their 100th Birthday. Details should be sent directly to Mr Williamson or to the Parish Council who will forward any recommendations for the attention of Mr Williamson.

The Friends of the Bront

Meet on the second Tuesday in the month around 2pm and all are welcome to join them in their endeavours to keep the Bront looking its best. Please ring Jan on 01902 791443 for further details or contact the Parish Council, details below.

Ex Royal Ordnance Factory Site

Near Coven Heath – the planning application for warehousing and distribution centre has been withdrawn.

2011 VFestival Grant

The VFestival held at Weston Park in 2011 has once again provided much needed financial support to local organisations and clubs, either based in Bishops Wood or with a strong connection with the village, through a generous grant of £7,000. Having considered the applications received the grant has now been distributed as follows:

- Bishops Wood Neighbourhood Watch £300
- Bishops Wood Community Fund £400
- Bishops Wood Jubilee Committee £1,100
- Bishops Wood Village Hall £1,500
- Bishops Wood Park Committee £1,000
- Bishops Wood Youth Club £1,000
- Brewood Tennis Club £100
- Brewood and District First Responders £700
- St John’s Nursery & Out of School Care £900

The Council is extremely grateful to Roseclaim and the VFestival for their continued support and recognition of the inconvenience caused to locals living in the vicinity of the Festival.

Christmas Lights 2011

Although Christmas has long since passed the Council would like to express its gratitude for all the hard work of the four Christmas Lights Committees who once again undertook organising the 2011 Christmas Light Displays and Switch-on Events. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to raise funds to supplement the annual grant provided by the Council, to ensure the lights are up in time to celebrate the start of the season’s festivities and to make all the necessary arrangements for the Switch-on. If you would like to support any of the four Lighting committees in the future please contact the Clerk who will pass on your details.

CONTACT DETAILS

Council Office
35 Stafford Street,
Brewood,
ST19 9DX
Tel. 01902 850809
Open 9.30am to 12.30pm
Monday to Friday.
Clerk: Sue Groom.
Assistant Clerk: Maggie O’Brien.

Voluntary Car Scheme
Tel. 01902 851786
Open 9.30am to 12.30pm
Monday to Friday.
Co-ordinator: Tanya Postles.

Email the Parish Council:
brewoodparish@btconnect.com
Web Sites:
www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk;
www.bishopswood.org.uk; www.brewoodvillage.org.uk;
www.covenheath.org.uk; www.covenvillage.org.uk;
www.brewoodparish.org.uk

Next Police Surgery to be held on 28 March: Brewood Co-op 1.30pm to 2.30pm; Coven Co-op 3.00am to 4.00pm

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Each year the Council holds an Annual Parish Meeting where it reports on the activities of the previous financial year. This year’s meeting will take place on Thursday 26 April at 7.00pm and although hosted by the Parish Council, it being Chaired by the Chair of Council, it is a meeting of the local electorate, those registered to vote in the Parish. The meeting provides an opportunity to hear more about the work of the Council, ask questions and provide feedback.

REPORT PROBLEMS TO
CLARENCE 0300 111 8000
clarenc@staffordshire.gov.uk
for pot holes, street lights,
blocked road drains – flooding,
overgrown hedges

Britain in Bloom

Britain in Bloom holds two competitions – for communities as a whole who may wish to enter their village or town and for what is known as ‘it’s Your Neighbourhood’. The latter of these is an opportunity for a community to enter just a street, an alley or an area of sheltered housing that a group in the community want to improve. Further details available on Parish notice-boards.

2012

Spring 2012