

Keele Parish Council – October Update

Hello everyone,

Hope you all had a lovely summer! September was a bit quieter for us, but there's still plenty happening around the parish.

General Matters

Fireworks:

We live a predominantly rural parish with farms in the heart of our community. Fireworks startle livestock, pets and wildlife. If you are planning a display, please bear this in mind and avoid noisy fireworks.

Yew Tree Newsletter:

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers who hand-delivered the latest newsletter. If you missed out, just let us know and we'll get a copy to you.

Borough Plan:

To remind everyone, the Borough Plan will set the planning direction in the Borough for the coming years and proposes significant house building around the parish. The plan has been through inspection and is undergoing modification in response to the Inspector's remarks. Following this process, the modified plan will be subject to another round of public consultation. We will let you know when there is further news.

Neighbourhood Plan:

Our Neighbourhood Plan sets the planning direction for the Parish. There are two final hurdles to clear, a public consultation followed by modification in response and then the final referendum. The consultation should be expected to start on 20th November and will run until January 15th. Information about the consultation will be distributed to all residents before the consultation.

Parish Maintenance:

Our contractor's been busy:

- The speed sign on Pepper Street is fixed
 - Hedges and the war memorial area are tidied
 - Weed spraying is done
- More jobs are lined up – see below for details!

Pepper Street Layby:

We're still waiting to hear about keeping part of the layby as a bus stop. Simon Tagg, our County Councillor, is chasing this up for us.

Harvest Festival:

A massive thank you to everyone involved at St John's Church. The children's food donations looked fantastic and made a real difference at the local food bank.

Remembrance Sunday

The act of Remembrance will take place at the village War Memorial outside St John's Church on Sunday 9th November and will start at 10:45. It will be followed by a service in St John's Church, which everyone is welcome to attend. If you can come along, it would be most welcome.

Planning News

- **Application for permission in principle for 6 to 9 dwellings, Land South Of Pepper Street**

Thanks to the hard work of our Borough Councillor, Dave Jones, this application has been called in for consideration by the Planning Committee. We welcome the additional level of scrutiny this provides.

- **The Hawthorns:**

Trinity (the managing agents) are waiting for instructions from Seddon about setting up a resident-led management company. We've nudged Seddon for a reply.

- **Recent Planning Applications:**

- 8 Holly Mews: First-floor window above the garage – pending, no comment from us.
- 5 Crossing Place: Amendment to remove a second-storey element – approved.

Around the Parish

- **'Siding' of Pepper Street footway (exit of Quarry Bank to A525):**

Summer growth is dying back, but some bits still need clearing. Contractor's on it!

- **Pepper Street Layby:**

Still waiting for Highways to get in touch. On our next agenda.

- **Station Road to Quarry Bank Path:**

Vegetation is making things tricky. We're clearing the footway soon.

- **Trees near School & Quarry Bank Road:**

Branches are in the way – the Borough's tree expert will take a look.

- **University Roundabout:**

Shrubs are blocking visibility. We've asked the County to cut them back.

- **Keele Road Hedge (Old Cricket Pitch):**

Hedge is creeping onto the pavement again. Logged with the County.

- **Pump Bank Hedge:**

Owner contacted after a resident's complaint. We're helping to get it sorted.

- **Rough Sleeper on A525 Footpath:**

A tent has been spotted. The Borough's Homelessness Team is supporting the individual, and the County will clear waste.

- **Quarry Bank to Silverdale Footpath:**
It's official – the footpath application is approved! Updates to follow.
- **Civic Pride Day:**
Great teamwork in Keele – litter picking, Police drop-in, and street cleaning. Thanks to everyone who joined in!
- **Community Orchard:**
Loads of apples and plums this year! Grass is cut for winter, but there are still a few apples left if you fancy a challenge.
- **Bus Shelters:**
The shelter at Station Road is due for a clean. We're also checking ownership of the Yew Tree shelter to see if we can help.
- **War Memorial:**
Weed-sprayed and hedges cut for Remembrance Sunday. Additional strimming is being carried out by volunteers. Further hedge cutting is planned prior to the event.
- **Grass Cuttings on Quarry Bank Road:**
Cuttings are being dumped in the hedgerow near The Hawthorns. We thank everyone who disposes of their garden waste responsibly. If you do see anyone fly-tipping, please let us know straight away and we will report it to the Borough.
- **Overgrown Hedges in The Village:**
Hedges outside a couple of properties on The Village are overhanging the pavement. We'll be sending letters to residents soon.

And finally...

Thank you to everyone who helps keep Keele looking great – volunteers, residents, councillors, and contractors. If you spot anything that needs attention, just let the Parish Clerk know. Together, we'll keep our village safe, tidy, and welcoming!