

News You Can Use on the Doorstep

Leader's Monthly E-Newsletter for August

From the Leader of the Council

Hednesford and Rawnsley By-Election Follows Councillor's Sudden Death

Voters in Hednesford and Rawnsley will be going to the polls on September 7th following the sudden death of Graham Burnett, aged 59, after dedicating seven years as a Conservative district councillor and since May 4 as a county councillor for the division. Generous tributes to the late councillor Graham Burnett were expressed at the county council meeting on July 20.



Despite this sad news it is good news that a worthy successor to Graham has been chosen to pick up the mantle in Bryan Jones, a Hednesford resident who spent 30 years' service as a police officer. He has pledged himself to work closely with fellow Hednesford resident Phil Hewitt who is the other Conservative councillor for the division.



Bryan says: "Phil and I wish to continue Graham's legacy by delivering Conservative values of low taxation, excellent public services, and value for money. Having come from a working class background and raised on the Pye Green housing estate, I recognise that life can often be difficult. I started work as a local coal miner before joining the police service.

“During that time I held many strategic roles such as Response and Neighbourhood inspector. Amanda Milling MP, Phil Hewitt and I take great pride in our community and the beautiful area in which we live. We are fully committed to preserving our green spaces and supporting local initiatives and events.”

Commenting on Bryan’s selection Amanda Milling MP for Cannock Chase said: “Bryan is a delight to work with and an excellent local candidate ready to represent his local area.” If you would like to raise an issue of concern or help in Bryan’s campaign, please contact him on 01543 871763 or online at bryan.jones@localconservatives.org.uk.

Alan White Steps Up as New Deputy Council Leader

Councillor Alan White has been elected new Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group following the resignation of Councillor Ian Parry to start a new job elsewhere although he remains a county councillor.

Alan has been in local government for over 14 years and a county councillor since 2009. At the start of his second term, the Leader invited him to join the Cabinet, initially as a Cabinet Support Member, and then in Nov 13 taking over the portfolio for Health, Care, and Wellbeing.



Alan was commissioned into the Parachute Regiment in 1992 and held several unit level appointments including Platoon Commander, Adjutant (basically head of discipline and administration), Operations Officer, and Company Commander. He left the Army after 10 years having reached the rank of Major.

He was educated at Stockport School, the University of Liverpool (BSc Hons in Genetics), the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and the Open University (Master's in Business Administration). Alan is married to Jenny and they have a six-year-old son. He has three children from a previous marriage.

Alan says: "I am by nature a consensus builder, although as you might guess from my professional experience, I can provide clear and strong leadership when required. I have sufficient moral courage to take and push through difficult decisions. Consensus building around difficult decisions is what the next four years holds for us."

The former deputy leader of the council Ian Parry stood down from that role from July 31 but says he will remain a county councillor and continue to serve and do his best for his constituents.

Ian says: "There is no perfect time to make a change, but I have accepted a new job which interests me greatly. This is my next interesting challenge which I have, for some time been looking for. I am thrilled and delighted. My decision is purely based on this new opportunity and my intention to focus my attention and energy upon that. I have no ulterior motive or hidden agenda.

Philip Atkins, Leader of the Council says: "I am really sorry to lose Ian from our Cabinet and Leadership Team. His commitment to Staffordshire and public service is widely acknowledged, appreciated, and respected.

"He held this position for over seven years and has been Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group for many years. Ian is a very talented and resourceful man who has made a major contribution to the County Council and to Staffordshire. He has a terrific knowledge and understanding of how the County Council works and has led on many key areas on innovation and change. He has always been a central part of our policy and strategy development.

“I know Ian will continue to fully serve the residents who elected him and expect him to serve the wider Staffordshire electorate in a different, less time-consuming capacity within the Council, so that his experience and knowledge will still be applied.”

County Council Unites in Supporting Community Hospitals Petition



The county council was united politically at its July meeting in supporting a petition to “Save Leek Moorlands Hospital and Stop the Closures of Community Hospitals.” The petition prompted by plans from the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to downgrade

the hospital consisted of a paper petition and an e-petition with a total number of signatures in excess of 23,000. Responding to the debate in an unusual display of cross party unity Conservative and Labour county councillors were united in opposition to the CCG plans with several members commenting that that CCG was “no longer fit for purpose.” Councillor Ian Parry commented that the consultation by the North Staffordshire CCG had been “woeful” and was “simply preparing the public for bad news.” Welcoming the cross-party consensus, Cabinet member for Health, Care, and Wellbeing Alan White pledged the administration’s full support for the petitioners and said, “the real issue was not about beds but about services.”

Celebrating the Success of IRONKIDS and Ironman 70.3

IRONKIDS and Ironman 70.3 returned to the county earlier in the summer for a third successful year. The Leader of the Council told county councillors the good news. He said: “Both events are a great opportunity to showcase what a fantastic county we all live in and of course hundreds of thousands of pounds are raised for good causes.

“We should say well done to five-year-old Carter Chatting from Lichfield in particular”. Carter who has leukaemia crossed the line with his classmates and raised lots of money for the specialist hospital unit where he has been receiving treatment. The main event this year fell on a blistering hot Father’s Day and hundreds of people turned out to cheer on the competitors as they crossed the line at Shugborough.

On the Buses in Staffordshire

The county council began an eight-week consultation on options for subsidising bus journeys in Staffordshire from April 2018 with the budget the council has available. The Leader of the Council told members: “All bus journeys in Staffordshire are operated by private bus companies or voluntary and community groups and 90 per cent of journeys are made without any subsidy from the county council. However, in some cases we are still subsidising journeys by as much as £10 a head and as part of the consultation we want to hear from people who travel on buses and from those who don’t about subsidised travel and the possible options.”

UK Corporate Games returns to our county



Sports and leisure has always played an important role in society and a strong offer can generate visitors, jobs, and prosperity for an area. Not to mention the well-documented benefits of healthy and active

lifestyles for local communities.

Leader of the Council Philip Atkins writes: “That’s why in recent years we have been actively pursuing several high-profile sporting events

such as IRONMAN, Women's Tour cycling, and the UK Corporate Games that all help promote the county to a global audience.

"Built on the highly successful 2015 UK Corporate Games held in the area, we have deservedly been chosen to host the games again in 2018, beating off stiff competition from major UK cities. The last Games in 2015 attracted not only Staffordshire firms but some of the UK's top companies.

"Over 5,000 competitors took part in the long weekend of sports and leisure helping generate an estimated £3 million for the local economy. Just as important was that we got the chance to showcase the area's inward investment potential to top company executives to help bring jobs to the county. *I would certainly encourage our Staffordshire-based businesses of all sizes to get involved.*"

Any companies interested in taking part in the games which will take place from 21 – 24 June 2018 are welcome to a special celebration launch event on 4 October at Keele Hall from 6.30pm. Companies can register or find out more at www.corporate-games.com.

Supporting People living with Dementia and their Carers



Dementia is a subject that many of us don't talk about, but is something that can have a devastating impact on not only individuals, but also on their family and friends.

Council Leader Philip Atkins says: "In Staffordshire the good news is we have increasing numbers of an older population. We predict that the total number of people aged 65 and over with dementia will rise from around 11,100 in 2016 to 17,400 in 2030, an increase of 57 per cent. These are huge numbers and why we are doing everything we can to ensure people

living with dementia and their carers can access the support they need in their local community.

“These plans include the construction of a brand-new Dementia Centre of Excellence in Burton, and I attended the ground-breaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction. The Centre will enable us to give people coping with dementia a better quality of life, enable them to lead fulfilling, independent lives for as long as possible, and provide continued support as their condition changes.

“This centre, and others like it, will mean that we are ready to meet the challenges that dementia poses and support individuals, their families, and the wider community. Added to this, we want to ensure local people have more of an understanding of the condition, so we can create communities that actively support those living with dementia. This means ‘People will be Helping People’ to live independent lives and be part of an active and supporting community.”

It's Exciting Times for our County Town



Councillor Philip Atkins writes: “You will have heard me talking about growing the county’s economy before, attracting more better paid jobs. They put more money into people’s pockets to spend in our town centres in their leisure time and this

remains a key priority for the county council.

“Take Stafford as an example. Over the years we have seen huge development in the town such as the new £100 million Riverside Shopping Centre and the continuous development at Redhill Business Park. It now has around half a million square feet of space

for businesses. Both projects are delivering more job opportunities. We've also seen the expansion of the army barracks also completed with hundreds of new homes either having been built or in the pipeline. There is potential for a new housing estate at the former Police HQ.

"There is more to do however to improve the town and this month saw the announcement of The Stafford Gateway Masterplan. This lays the plans to develop land near the railway station and could see the development of 650 apartments, 150 houses, a new hotel, and a 1,400 space multi storey car park.

"The key to this is the creation of the Stafford Western Access Route which will link the A518 Newport Road and the A34 Foregate Street. This will not only enable the ambitious Gateway project but will also ease congestion in the town centre, particularly around the railway station as we prepare for Javelin trains using the HS2 connection. Work to improve the junctions at Foregate Street has been completed and the next phase will see us assembling the required land along the route.

"It really is an exciting and changing time for Stafford with such great opportunities to grow our local economy and make life better for people working and living here."

New A50 Road Bridge Boosts Links to East Midlands



A new bridge on the A50 near Uttoxeter has been successfully installed as part of wider plans to improve transport links, support business, and unlock land for new housing and economic growth.

The operation to place six steel beams, each 47 metres long and weighing 45 tonnes apiece started

at 8pm on a Friday night and was completed for the Monday morning rush hour. This was no mean feat and as a major piece of work it was a credit to everyone involved how quickly, safely, and smoothly the work went.

The A50 is the most important transport link between the West and East Midlands. The planned improvements will not only benefit people in Uttoxeter but also major employers and their employees, making journeys between Staffordshire and Derbyshire quicker, easier, and safer. Managing to condense the necessary work into just one weekend helped to minimise inconvenience for people and thanks are due to everyone for their patience.

Connecting Communities Remains a Priority for Staffordshire



Superfast broadband is recognised as the next essential utility for everyone, whether it's for business, schools, or leisure and when we don't have good access we miss it.

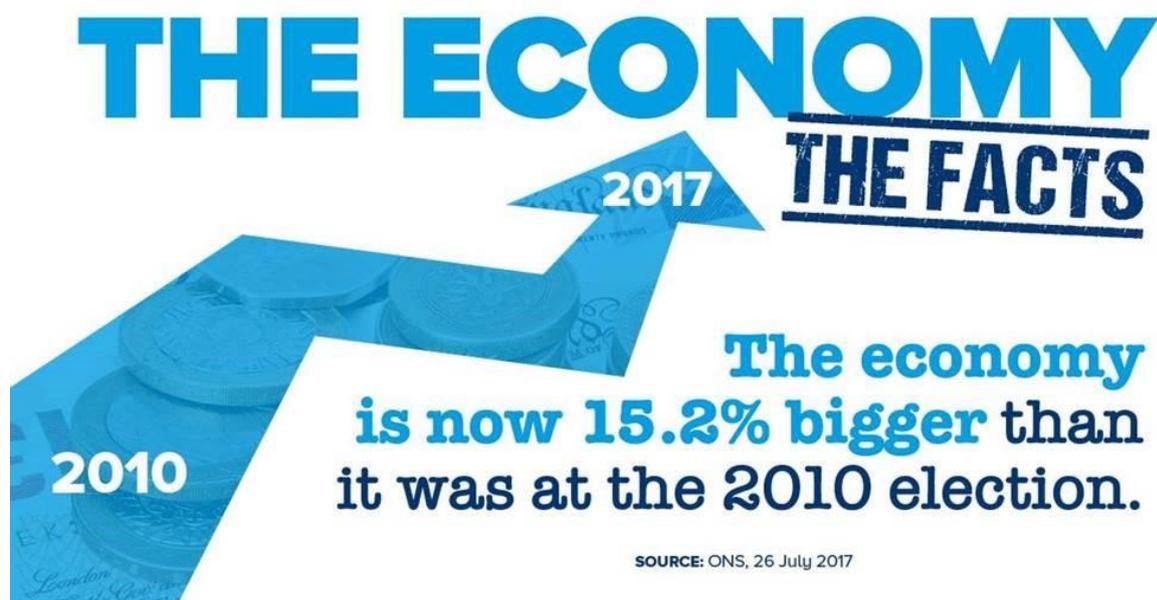
You should be already aware of our ground breaking Superfast Staffordshire project, working with BT and BDUK, that's delivering high speed fibre broadband to homes and businesses across the county. We're now celebrating the three-year anniversary of the project launch which has been followed by a hugely successful programme. When complete, together with commercial roll-out, 96 per cent of properties will be able to access fast broadband by the end of 2018. To date we've enabled connection to over 70,000 properties across the county.

Having this kind of speed on this scale is great news and is cutting edge technology that will have a huge impact on our county. This will be some of the fastest Internet tech available to nearly every house and business in Staffordshire, making us one of the best connected counties in the country.

Right from the start of this project we have always said we would do all we could to reach the final four per cent in the most remote areas. Now the Community Fibre Partnership Support Fund initiative is helping us do this. This additional funding allows the project to co-invest along with local communities. £400,000 has been set aside to help local eligible communities get connected with additional funding towards engineering work coming from Openreach, BT's local network business.

Stafford borough has been the first area to benefit from this with three communities – Cotwalton, Brookside Business Park near Stone and Cold Norton. Cotwalton will have the necessary upgrade work completed soon. Cold Norton is the most recent addition to the project with around 50 premises, including the recently opened Norton Bridge Golf Club.

I firmly believe that access to superfast broadband is now an essential utility service. It helps improve quality of life for people and means businesses can thrive. That is why connecting communities remains a priority for us.



MIDWIVES IN THE NHS

THE FACTS

May 2010
19,478
MIDWIVES

March 2017
21,597
MIDWIVES

SOURCE: NHS Digital, 21 June 2017

We will recruit
21,000
new mental health
workers in England

We will spend **£1.3 billion**
to treat an extra one
million people by 2021.

 **Conservatives**

