



Acton Trussell, Bednall and Teddesley Hay Parish Council

Newsletter from your Parish Council - April 2026

At the last Parish Council [PC] meeting in the Parish Community Centre [meetings are monthly, 3rd Wednesday of the month, start at 8pm and *residents are very welcome to attend and present concerns* which the PC will attempt to address], there were 3 major issues raised by residents. These are summarised as:

- a) Poor publicity from the PC regarding what we do, in particular in respect of the recent increase in precept [what the PC receives from your rates]. Minutes are published <https://www.actontrussellbednall-pc.gov.uk/community/acton-trussell-bednall-parish-council-13659/home/>
- b) Poor condition of the roads within the parish, notably potholes and flooding. [Highways are a matter for Stafford County Council {SCC}, but significant liaison and pressure effort is exercised by the PC]
- c) The recent notification from Gladman Development Ltd of their intention to seek planning permission for 190 new houses on Acton Hill, from the parish boundary with Wildwood and consuming productive farming land, greenspace, a wildlife link from Cannock Chase to the Penk Valley. [Planning is legally a matter for South Staffs District Council {SSDC}, but within the UK Government National Planning Policy Framework {NPPF} and requiring that local communities can shape their development and planning policies, which must align with the broader objectives of sustainable development]

None of these matters are new to the PC, and this Newsletter is an initial attempt to address the first.

- i. The PC is about to spend a significant % of its reserves on the purchase of the Community Car Park in Bednall. This facility is desperately needed for the safe parking of residents and visitors, in particular for users of All Saints Church and the nearby Primary School. Its opening is presently delayed by a dispute between SCC Highways Dept and the Contractors for the Homes Plus Group responsible for the construction. Other major expenditure this year is expected in respect of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan, which will address items b) and c) above, see iii) below
- ii. Parishioners are requested to access the links to recent correspondence relating to Highways, informing some of the initiatives being pressed by the PC. Others, relating to the calming of traffic, the excessive traffic through the parish as 'rat runs' from Stafford to the M6 and repeated vehicle impacts and damage to the historic river bridges on Mill Lane are also in play. [Link to Highways Update](#).
- iii. From <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2> "*Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area*".
The PC has sought professional assistance in obtaining a Housing Needs Assessment and in the early stages of drafting a Neighbourhood Plan. The recent, unwelcome, action by Gladman to seek an increase in housing numbers to 190 from the 81 in the SSDC Local Plan, emphasises the need for a Parish Neighbourhood Plan. [Link to Parish Neighbourhood Plan](#) We need your support at the meeting on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Community Centre, Acton Hill Road to address both issues, the:
 1. Acton Hill / Wildwood Larger Development which in the long term could see 2830 houses built, destroying the parish as rural community
 2. The Parish Neighbourhood Plan. We need YOUR help to ensure that this will reflect YOUR priorities

Please come to the meeting on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Community Centre.

Please also come to PC meetings 3rd Wednesday of month at 8pm