



# Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council



*Your wellbeing is our business*

January 2023

## Happy New Year to all our residents and business owners

Reflecting back over the past 12 months, we have been busy but there have been highs and lows. In June we celebrated the platinum jubilee of our Queen and then in September we mourned her passing. Across our community face-to-face activity became the norm again, but many of us were still affected by covid, flu and other health concerns. I know that for many people 2022 was a difficult time.

As I write this message, the backdrop of national and international turmoil is inescapable. 2023 is not likely to be an easy year, but here in Yarnfield and Cold Meece good things do happen and we are so lucky to live in a community where people are friendly and care for one another. So, if you are struggling, please be brave and ask for help. We will treat any information in complete confidence.

This will be the last newsletter of the current parish council as our term of office ends in April with elections for Stafford Borough and its parishes in May. We hope that you have noticed some of the differences we have made over the past 4 years in our aims to communicate openly with you, to provide opportunities for us to get together, to promote your interests, support your wellbeing and to take good care of our environment. We have projects underway that have been delayed by the impact of covid restrictions so there is still much for the next council to do, but we can honestly say that Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council is now properly established and widely respected.

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Could you be a parish or borough councillor?

You do not need to belong to a political party - in fact our parish council is proudly non-party political - you just need to care about where you live. We will be circulating further information in February, but if you are interested in finding out more, just talk to any of your councillors or the clerk.

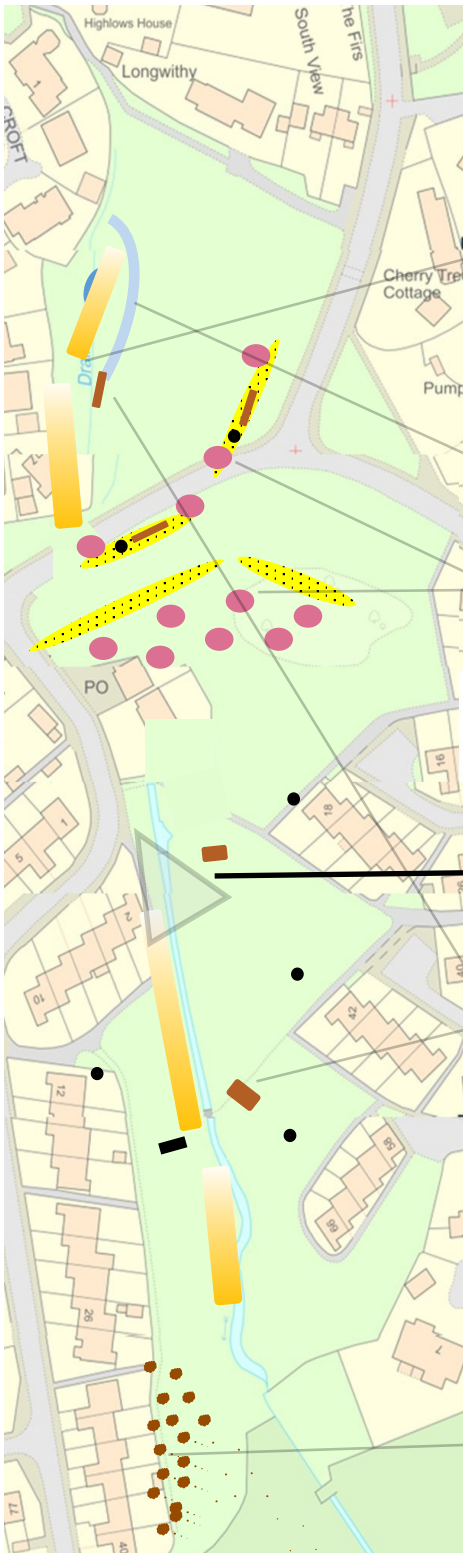
I wish you all a healthy, happy new year.

With warm regards,

Sally

Sally Parkin  
Chairperson, Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

# Village Green Project



Proposed wet area and pond as part of

All weather



Additional Cherry Trees

Play ground - see



2 new benches



6 new litter bins



Native nut



Location plan

larger plan for details

### Project Aim:

- To provide a multi-functional space for all ages and needs.
- Improve the play facilities on the playground to provide a single all weather play area.
- Increase biodiversity and amenity, relaxing spaces, access to nature, play/fitness, dog walking, food growing, community events.

The ideas are based on community views and reflect the overriding ambition to make the natural environment a place for safe learning and recreation.

The project will be put out to commercial tender. But the aim will be to ensure there are plenty of opportunities for the community and local groups to be involved in delivery of the project.



Bench



Improved



Spring



New



Nature corridor Wild



The Borough Council has agreed to enter into a long lease agreement of the village green with the Parish Council. This is an important as it will enable to council complete the development of the village green project. Funding for the project will come in part from the Borough Council who will contribute £40,000 from section 106 monies arising from the Walnut Tree Farm development. This will not be sufficient to cover the total cost, which is likely to be in excess of £100,000. The parish council will be applying to Groundwork UK to secure additional funding of up to £75,000 for the project from the HS2 Community and Environment Fund. This will require that the lease to the parish council of the village green is formally and legally in place and that we have selected, through a competitive tender process, a contractor to undertake the work. The project, which has been under development for two years is now making real progress and the Parish Council plans to start the work to select contractors in the spring.

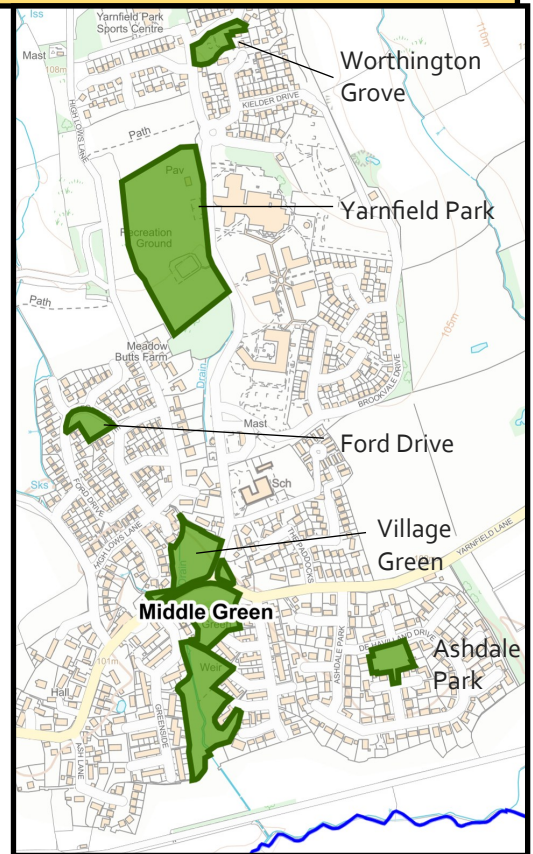
## Green Space consultation

The designation of land as Local Green Space in our neighbourhood plan will allow local people to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.

As part of the work to prepare a neighbourhood plan the Parish Council has identified six areas of open green space within the parish that it feels are worthy of inclusion in the emerging plan. We are now interested in hearing residents' opinions on these sites: should they be included or excluded from the plan; are there any other areas of open space that should be considered?

To be included Local Green Space will need to meet the criteria set out in National Planning Policy Guidance: so the land must be reasonably close to the community it serves; it is demonstrably special to the community and holds particular local significance; and it is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

An online survey for is available at:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/ibdWwsVBVD>

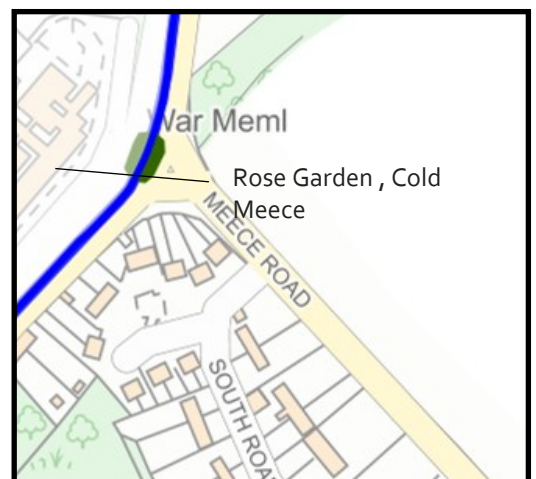


Yarnfield and Cold Meece  
Neighborhood plan



Paper copies of the form are available on request from the parish clerk

Thank you for participating in this important work



# Warm Welcome Spaces

There is a cost-of-living crisis in the UK resulting in unprecedented pressures on household budgets. Despite the support given by Government, many people are forced to make tough decisions about what they can do, and when they can afford to heat their home.

There are now two warm welcome initiatives running every week in the village hall, both are open to everyone in the parish. Not only do they provide a warm place they also provide a friendly welcome to meet and make friends over a hot drink. The added bonus of these sessions is an opportunity to bring people together.

A parish councillor is available at every session to hear any comments or concerns you may have and to update you on the work of the council.

The events are paid being paid for by the Parish Council who have been supported by a small grant from Stafford Borough Council and the Community Foundation.

Plans are now being made to hold a drop-in session on Wednesday afternoons where you can speak to the local PSCO.



The poster features a central image of a white coffee cup on a saucer with steam rising from it, set against a background of bokeh lights. To the right, the text 'Yarnfield & Meace Parish Council' is written in a cursive font. Below the coffee cup, the words 'Warm Welcome' are written in large, bold, white letters, with 'initiative' in smaller text to the right. Logos for NHS Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Stafford Borough Council, and The Community Foundation for Staffordshire are visible. The text 'Wednesday Warm Welcome - 2.30PM - 4.00PM at the Village Hall' and 'Friday Coffee Club - 10.00AM - 12 NOON' are included, along with details about the events being open to everyone and free of charge. The dates '23rd November 2022 - 31st March 2023' are prominently displayed at the bottom. A small note at the very bottom reads 'Design prepared by Tara Barker Designs. (tarabarkerdesign@gmail.com)'.

# Community Engagement Officer

From the very start, this parish council had an ambition to build community spirit and provide opportunities to get involved. In 2022 the parish council, working in collaboration with Support Staffordshire, secured a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to employ a part time community engagement officer for a year.

We are delighted to say that the recruitment process is now underway and we aim to have the successful candidate starting work in March. Our new colleague will be active in the community, meeting and getting to know the people who live here. They will be tasked with growing and developing new community led opportunities as well as supporting the groups and activities that we already have.

We promise to share more details as soon as we can.

# Craft Group

Are there any local crafters interested in joining a group that could meet on a Monday afternoon in the parish? (Venue to be confirmed, possibly the village hall). Bring your own crafts, tea and coffee provided.

If there is enough interest we will apply to the parish council for a grant to cover the cost of room hire.

If you are interested please contact John Fraser, [ycmclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ycmclerk@gmail.com)

Telephone 07546 456771



# CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council has now been running for nearly 4 years. In that time the parish council has worked hard to make a difference to the local area through the work it does. This is only possible with the support of the local community and a team of dedicated councillors.

The election will provide an opportunity for residents to elect new councillors to take on this role. Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council wants to encourage residents who have innovative ideas or have concerns about a specific issue to stand as councillors.

The next round of local elections will take place in May 2023. If you are passionate about the community you live in and could help make a difference we want to hear from you.

- Do you have views about the parish?
- Can you bring fresh ideas and be part of the team that makes a real difference and help shape what goes on in the parish?

The work done by Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council is exciting and rewarding. The main role of a councillor is to engage with local people, to hear their views and make decisions on the services and projects the council should take forward, getting involved to ensure services meet the community's needs.

For advice on what is involved talk to any of your councillors or the clerk.

[www.ycm-pc.org.uk](http://www.ycm-pc.org.uk)

Contact Details:

John Fraser, Parish Clerk  
Email: [ycmclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ycmclerk@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07546456771



[www.ycm-pc.org.uk](http://www.ycm-pc.org.uk)



@ycmparishcouncil

## MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

# Yarnfield Park Resident's Group

Ever since people moved onto Yarnfield Park there have been complaints about the maintenance of the estate. Two residents have decided it is time to do something and to make their views known. Jo has lived on Yarnfield Park for 5 years and Kirsty for nearly 3 years, both have young children in the local school and hear what is being said about the Pinnacle contract and the poor standards of maintenance. After talking to residents around Yarnfield Park, they had both decided that something needed to be done, the residents were concerned with things like trees falling or the grass never been cut, or bushes cut back. The best way forward was to form a resident's group and have live discussions on issues and how we can move forward. We have had great support from the parish council and the residents around Yarnfield Park. We have had a lot of positive feedback so far from the group and how things are moving forward.

The main goal of the Group is to make sure residents have a right to be informed about the

maintenance of Yarnfield Park and a say in what is done. The best way

to achieve this is for the residents to come together to ensure we are all receiving what we should in the maintenance contracts.

The next meeting of the Residents' Group will be booked over the coming weeks, and it would be great if you could join us.

If you would like any further information, or would like to join the group, please contact us on Facebook @ Yarnfield residents' group.

Thank you, Jo and Kirsty



 @yarnfieldresidents

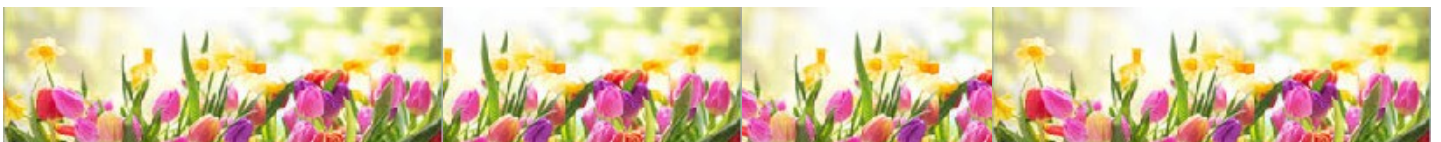
## Annual Spring Clean 2023



**22 April**  
**10.00am – noon & 2.00 – 4.00pm**

How to get involved:  
Contact John Fraser for more information.

Tel: 07546 456771  
Email: ycmclerk@gmail.com



# Events Working Group

Following the success of last year's Queen's Jubilee Picnic, which was organised by the parish council, fete committee and village hall committee an Events Working Group has been formed by the parish council. The new group will put together a series of events that will take place during the year.

Yarnfield has a long tradition of village fetes, and the aim is to build on this by merging the work of the Yarnfield Fete Committee and Parish Council. The hope is that there will be a range of activities taking place through the year and already plans are being made for:

- Pub Nights in the Village Hall
- Meet and Greet event
- Tabletop swap and sell event
- Easter egg hunt on the village green
- Summer Walk
- Annual summer picnic/fete
- Remembrance Day



The success of these ideas will depend on community support, and we would love to hear your ideas about what you would like to see taking place. Looking further ahead ideas about trips out to the pantomime or children's Christmas parties could be included. The group will also be looking to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May and would love to hear your ideas on things that we could do to mark this important date in the national calendar.

## HS2



Since the formation of the parish council, councillors have been active in challenging the proposal of the HS2 Stone Railhead that is now becoming a reality for everyone living in the parish. The work has seen numerous trips to London to present our case to Parliament about the damaging effect the plans will have. This work has been supported throughout by the Stone Railhead Crisis Group.

So far, we have not persuaded HS2 Ltd, or the Government, to change their plans about the Railhead and we are now faced with the reality that work on construction will start this year: we can already see evidence of this as ground investigations and other preliminary work are already happening.

The inevitable effect will be the traffic controls along Yarnfield Lane that bring delays to travel plans and roads covered in mud created by contractors vehicles. The parish council continues to protect the position that Yarnfield Lane must not be closed: HS2 originally planned a complete closure of the lane for 3 years during the duration of the building works.

Councillors have a programme of meetings with HS2 Ltd and their contractors and use these to press for greater information about the work. As the work develops these meetings will become increasingly important and the parish council will use these opportunities to hold the contractors to account.

Yarnfield Lane was not designed for the sort of vehicles we now see using it. This will inevitably mean there will be problems.

The parish council will represent the views of residents and raise their concerns about the impact this work is having, but are only one voice.

(Continues on Page 8)

HS2—continued

The parish council will represent the views of residents and raise their concerns about the impact this work is having, but are only one voice. Everyone living in the parish can play their part by logging complaints of mud, dangerous manoeuvres or damage to the road. The more voices that are heard, the more powerful the message will be.

**HS2 complaint line** Freephone 08081 434 434 or minicom on 08081 456 472 (if you have speech or hearing difficulties or email [HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

**Staffordshire County Highways** complaints app - <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

**Staffordshire Police**—Road traffic incidents—<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/ro/report/rti/rti-beta-2.1/report-a-road-traffic-incident/> or Telephone 101

## Meeting dates

15 February	7.30pm	Parish Council	Yarnfield Park
21 February	7.30pm	Community Action Group	Village Hall
15 March	7.30pm	Parish Council	Yarnfield Park
5 April	7.30pm	Parish Council	Yarnfield Park
18 April	7.30pm	Community Action Group	Village Hall
17 May	7.30pm	Annual meeting of the Parish Council	Yarnfield Park
17 May	7.45pm	Parish Council Meeting	Yarnfield Park
31 May	7.30pm	Annual Parish Assembly	Yarnfield Park

Parish Council Meetings at Yarnfield Park will also be streamed live on the Parish Council Facebook page.

Agendas for the meetings are posted on the Parish Council notice boards and on the Parish Council's website 5 days ahead of meetings

Anyone wanting to ask a public question at a meeting should contact the Parish Clerk by 12 noon on the day

### Contact Details:

John Fraser, Parish Clerk

Email: [ycmclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ycmclerk@gmail.com)



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