

# **BRAMSHALL VILLAGE**



**ACTION PLAN**  
**2008**



## INTRODUCTION

The Village Agents project was launched in 2005 with a Bramshall residents meeting/ workshop to identify problems of concern to the community, and to plan for the villages future. This involved residents putting forward ideas for improvements in the village that would be of benefit to us all.

There have been since then a number of similar meeting to further develop and prioritise the issues identified.

Staffordshire Moorlands Community and Voluntary Services appointed a village agent (Colleen Savage ) to assist a group of members in writing and delivering a village action plan.

Further public meeting will be held to publicise the results to the community and other statutory and voluntary partners. There will be half yearly open meetings to report on progress and to review the forward plan.

The action committee and all sponsors and partners will continually monitor the progress of the plan, and report to regularly to the community.

The Bramshall Village Association are very keen to deliver projects for the village, which will affect our lives in terms of safety, environment, and the general improvement in community spirit.

One major objectives of this exercise must be to develop a long standing relationship with the younger members of the community and to support them in planning for their future needs within the village.

In order to succeed with the plans it must emphasised that as many of the residents as possible must be prepared to put forward their views and to help out with projects when possible.





## Bramshall and Loxley History

Bramshall is situated about 2 miles west of Uttoxeter on what is described in the 'Uttoxeter Directory' as an eminence, and like most places around this area has an entry in the Domesday Book. The actual parochial boundary takes in the area of Loxley as far as Loxley Green, and also includes the hamlet of Dagdale.

The village is referred to in the Domesday Book as Branselle – and has also been known as Bromshulfe and Bromshall (the name being a derivation of 'Shelf of Broom' a reference to the plant of the cytissus family which grows commonly in these parts).

There has been a Church on the site in Bramshall for many hundreds of years. The records show that the Church had a Rector 1228 and a Warden in 1552. There have actually been two earlier churches, the first dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the second (built during the reign of Edward II) was demolished during that great Victorian age of *modernisation* and replaced with the current building, dedicated to St. Lawrence, around 1835. It is a fairly simple structure of Gothic design, with a seating capacity of approximately 90. The tower contains only 3 bells, of which the tenor and treble have been listed for preservation (these being circa 1590 & 1500 respectively). The little bit of ancient stained glass is limited to 6 14<sup>th</sup> century 'de Stafford' shields, a 16<sup>th</sup> century panel of fragments representing Alice Tame, the Lady Verney, and three panels of 14<sup>th</sup> century glass recently re-instated. In November 1921 Bramshall became a united benefice with Uttoxeter, at which point the patronage transferred from Lord Willoughby de Broke to the Dean and Canons of Windsor. Its only claim to 'notoriety' is that during the war the home guard, stationed as look out on the tower, mistakenly identified some parachutists and rang the bells to signify the German invasion!

In its heyday the railway line through the village (from Uttoxeter to Stoke) included a station near to the level crossing on the B5027 (Stone Road) and a junction with the single line GNR track to Stafford, a few hundred yards West of the level crossing (Bromshall Junction) in Bennett's lane. The signal box at this junction was one of the tallest in the county. The last train along the 'Northern Line' took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1957.

During the Second World War the Ministry of Defence requisitioned land between the GNR 'Northern Line' and the LMS main line for the purpose of creating an ammunition storage area. It is debatable whether or not its location was known by Germany but certainly one bomb was dropped and exploded close to the old well and on another occasion a bomb exploded in the Loxley area.

Bramshall did have a school but this was closed at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site of which is now occupied by the properties known as 'Bidston' & 'Lyndhurst' (opposite Sargeant's butchers shop). The school house was modified to become what is now the Old Post Office Cottage.



The Post Office in Bramshall was started by Fanny Eden (nee Durose) but became a main focus of the village during the period 1960 - 1986 when her daughter Mrs Searle (Aunt Jane) developed the business into a traditional 'open all hours' PO and shop. Unfortunately this facility closed in the last few years – a casualty of the growth of supermarkets.

T. Sargeant & Sons, family butchers, have been a presence in the village for many years, starting off in an outbuilding at Roycroft Farm, and now being the main abattoir in this area of Staffordshire and having retail outlets in both Bramshall and Uttoxeter.

Strawberry Garden Centre started with Dick Statham diversifying from traditional agricultural farming to opening a "Pick your own" strawberries and other soft fruits. Bryan Heath took over from Dick Statham and, with the declining interest in PYO fruit, it evolved into the current flourishing Garden Centre now run by his son Russell and wife Sarah.

The Fradgley Charity was set up at the behest of Mrs Clarissa Fradgley who bequeathed to the poor of this Parish (in 1895) the sum of £200.00 the wherewith of which was used in the purchasing of coal. This charity continued until it celebrated its centenary in 1995 when it ceased in December 1995, due to ever diminishing returns.

Bramshall has undergone two major housing developments that have changed the shape of the village from a mainly agricultural based community of a few families into a diverse population encompassing a wealth of occupations. The first of these developments took place in the 70's and this was predominantly of the executive end of the market, but this did lead to bringing in families who, on the whole, have remained in the village. The second phase of developments occurred in the 90's and heralded a mixture of properties that continue to see a steady change of ownership, reflecting modern lifestyles (young, mobile individuals and families, ease of commuting being close to major arterial links, networking not necessarily based in and around the village).

H Joe Underwood (Smokey Joe) was one time Landlord of the New Inn, Bramshall R H Wilf Redfern was one time Landlord of the Plough Inn, Stafford Road, Uttoxeter. Both men were skilled drivers of horse drawn wagons, steam or petrol locomotives. Both were prolific drinkers. Wilf was once asked how much beer he drank in a day, replied fifteen or twenty pints every day, but sometime we have a lot!!

### **Robin Hood**

Over the years this property has seen many changes – started out as three individual homes and then was converted by Thomas Warner, and became the New Inn. Offilers' Brewery sold the New Inn to Annie Taft the wife of John Thomas Taft Innkeeper of the New Inn, Great Bramshall for the sum of £525 on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1928. Around the 1950's it was affectionately known as Smokey Joe's and latterly as the Robin Hood.



### **Bramshall Inn**

Originally this was known as the Butcher's Arms Inn. The inn is a former vicarage and it was around 1832 that it was converted into an inn when the railway was brought through the village. For well in excess of 100 years the licence had always been held by a woman, with Mrs Penelope Ann Farmer following her mother and grandmother as licensee. Eventually this passed on to her nephew Mr Ralph Sargeant following whom, there was a succession of licensees which eventually saw the change of name to the Bramshall Inn. Interestingly the current incumbent (Tina Bond) carries on the tradition of a lady licensee - she is also related back to the earlier Sargeant family..

### **Wheelwright**

Henry Eden held the wheelwright business in a shed on land directly opposite 'East View' in Church Lane. Although that building is no longer standing, the land associated remains undeveloped and is affectionately known as 'Wheelwright's Croft'.

### **Blacksmith**

'Teddy' Eyre was the last blacksmith and, other than the name, there is little to identify the Old Smithy from an architectural viewpoint (but the garage does still contain the rings mounted in the wall that were used to tether horses).

### **Baker**

Thomas Fradley (Tom the Baker) founded the Bakery which was at The Nook.

### **Extraction of gravel**

Much of the natural ground around Bramshall is composed of alluvial clay and gravel. This gravel has always been important, and a modest extraction site resulted in a pit that used to be behind the Old Smithy. Many an old item (now probably perceived to be of antique interest and value) had been discarded in that pit - however the pit is now filled in and has 2 properties built on top!!

### **Bramshall Ind Est**

The MOD site continued to be operated until the 1960's after which time it was left abandoned. It wasn't until the following decade that the land was returned to the original families, but change of use and business occupation was relatively slow and it was in the 1980's that the industrial estate started to emerge. Many of the old wartime buildings (nissan huts, barracks etc) have been erased, but some of the large explosive storage buildings have been converted to poultry units and are still visible.



### Listed buildings

In Bramshall they include the Church of course, the Grange Farmhouse which is mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and also the Milepost which is mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century situated opposite the Grange Farmhouse in Stone Road. The Milepost is made of cast iron, triangular section with chamfered top which reads Uttoxeter 3, Abbots Bromley 4, Handsacre 10, Burton 15 and Lichfield 15. The Oaklands on Dagdale Lane is 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Loxley Park – a brief history

Loxley Park is situated in the part of Staffordshire called the Woodlands, it is approximately 2 miles from Uttoxeter.

There has been an Estate at Loxley since before the Conquest, the present house was partly rebuilt in 1797. It is front cased with stone and with a portico of the Doric order. It stands well and commands a good view of the surrounding area with views over the Weaver hills.

The following is an extract from the Domesday Book 1086.

### (Totmonslow Hundred)

(133) The same Earl holds LOCHERSLEI (Loxley, in Uttoxeter) and Axelin (holds) of him. There (is) 1/4h. There is land for 4 ploughs. It was and is waste. There (are) 4a. of meadow, Wood(land) 1 ½ league in length ½ league in breadth. It is worth 20s. Edmund held it and he was a free man.

The most important landowner after the Conquest in this area was Robert de Stafford, a younger son of William the Conqueror's who took the name de Stafford and had extensive Estates in the Midlands including Stafford Castle.

The de Ferrers family held Tutbury Castle, Chartley Castle, Beeston Castle and Chester Castle until 1264 when they rebelled against Henry III (1216-1272) and most of their estates were forfeited to the Crown.

In 1592 Anthony Kynnersley gained a pardon against his being outlawed for debt. The family owned estates at Ensor, Wootton, Ipstones, Ellastone, Rough Close, Blithfield, Leigh, Denstone, Gratwich and Huntley in Staffordshire, as well as Loxley and a lot of property in Uttoxeter. They also owned estates in Stourbridge and Codnor, Normanton and Sutton Scarsdale in Derbyshire and Badger in Shropshire. Also Lincoln's Inn in London, They had a town house in London at 4 Montague Place, Bedford Square.

In 1677 Thomas Kynnersley was appointed Captain of a troop of horse by the Duke of Monmouth.



On December 26<sup>th</sup> 1735 Craven Kynnersley late Sheriff of the County was accidentally shot in the thigh when his greyhound jumped up and caught the trigger of his gun, he later died of his wound, a small stone obelisk in the Park marks where this tragedy occurred.

The Turnpike road of 1763 runs by the Park, the previous outline of the old road is still discernible.

The last male possessor of the Estate was Clement Kynnersley of Loxley park and Sutton Scarsdale (Derbyshire) who died in 1815. The Estate came to his nephew Thomas Sneyd, youngest son of his eldest sister Penelope, wife of John Sneyd of Bishton, Staffordshire and later of Belmont, Staffordshire. John Sneyd was descended from Ralph Sneyd of Bradwell and Keel, Staffordshire and in the female line from Thomas of Woodstock, son of King Edward III (1327-1377). He assume by Royal Licence 1815 the additional surname and arms of Kynnersley.

The Kynnersley, Sneyd and Sneyd-Kynnersley families allied themselves in marriage to the other leading local families.

Thomas Ralph Sneyd-Kynnersley O.B.E. M.C. late of Fair Meadow, Mayfield, Sussex and formerly of Loxley Park, Highfields Hall and the Dearndales, sold the estate in 1945. His memorial is in Uttoxeter Parish Church. He is survived by two daughters.

There are many old stories about Robin Hood and Loxley Hall. Francis Redfearn refers to the legend in his "History of Uttoxeter" and relates an old story of about 1760, in which it is claimed Robin Hood spent his honeymoon at Loxley Hall following his marriage in Doveridge Church.

During the 1880's Loxley park was rented out to a Manchester Doctor as a convalescent home. The family lived either at Highfields Hall or the Dearndales. In the 1920's it was used by a Girls Boarding School from Sussex as a summer residence.

During the War Loxley Park was requisitioned by the Government, and served as a camp for displaced persons – from Eastern Europe and the Baltic States and prisoners of war, notably Germans and Italians who went out to help on local farms. Only one half of a Nissan hut remains, previously they were scattered about the grounds.

Since May 1954 the Hall has become a School for boys with Special Educational needs.



## ACTION COMMITTEE

The action committees includes the following:-

Gordon Ellis	Pauline Ellis	Sally-Anne Lander
Jackie Potter	Richard Smith	Harold Richardson
Anne Harris	Paddy Hind	Carol Postlethwaite
Carol Cross	Lois Griffin	Jane Jackson
Val Thomas	Radley Perks	John Lander
Marita McKeon	Simon Spencer	Gail Probyn





## **SWOT ANALYSIS**

### **STRENGTHS**

- Village Hall
- Two Public Houses
- Beautiful Village Church
- Active young generation
- Village News letter
- Pleasant rural location
- Close to national road network
- Local businesses
- URPC

### **WEAKNESSES**

- No Post Office or village Shop
- Limited facilities for young generation
- Poor footpaths and lighting
- No sports ground
- No input from local businesses
- HGV traffic
- No traffic control measures
- Poor transport facilities

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Seek financial support to achieve village plans
- Expand village hall activities
- Improve safety, i.e. Speeding, paths, lighting
- Encourage active involvement of all groups and businesses
- Way-marked rural paths
- Improve village appearance and community involvement

### **THREATS**

- Village identity loss through expansion
- ESBC forward-plans
- Traffic to new factories and the industrial estate
- Lack of adequate footpaths
- Lack of resources to support plans







## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### TODDLERS AND SMALL CHILDREN.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. Current Play Facilities only suitable for children upto 5 years.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Obtain estimates of the cost of equipment and ground works	Action Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	
2	Apply for grant aid	Action Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr 08	
3	When grants obtained order equipment	Action Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> qtr 09	
4	Install play equipment	Action Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 09	







## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### OLDER CHILDREN.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. No where for older children to play where they do not annoy residents.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Contact all landowners of potential sites.	Parish Council	1 <sup>st</sup> qtr 07	Done. All refused.
2	Try again with more help from ESBC and County Council and water board.	Parish Council Action Committee	2 qtr 08	
3	When site is available apply for change of use, and make site safe to play on	Parish council Action Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr 08	
4	Apply for grants for play equipment etc.	Parish Council Action Committee	4 th qtr 08	





## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY / CAR SAFETY.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

- 1 Pavement required on Stone Rd between Church Lane and Bennetts Lane junctions.
- 2 Pavement required on Church Lane from Stone Rd junction to Church.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Stone Rd. Continue to complain to County Council of urgent need (see traffic)	Parish council	Ongoing	
2	Church Lane	County council	In budget 2008	
3	Traffic volumes accessing Ind. Est and new factories	Parish council Action com.	Now	Organize meeting with JCB





## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### SPEEDING TRAFFIC THROUGH VILLAGE.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. High volume of speeding cars at 'rush hour'
2. Dangerous access from Bennetts Lane.
3. No traffic calming measures installed.
4. Police speed checks too infrequent.
5. Heavy goods vehicles accessing Ind. Est.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Contact Police for more speed checks.	Parish Council	Every 3 months	This is currently in place.
2	More volunteers required to operate speed guns.	Any Parishioner	ASAP	
3	Campaign for traffic calming on Stone Rd between Church Lane and Bennetts Lane junctions	Parish Council And Action Committee	Keep Campaigning	Last request turned down
4	Campaign for alternative access to Bramshall Ind. Est.	Parish Council action committee	Keep campaigning.	





## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. Too few notice boards and poor utilization.
2. Twice yearly open review meeting of Village Association.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Review number of Notice Boards and sites.	Parish Council Action Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	
2	If more notice boards required Budget for 2008	Parish Council	3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr 08	
3	Twice yearly open forum	Parish Council Action Committees	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	Agree and publish dates





## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### COMMUNITY SAFETY.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. Neighbourhood watch scheme does not cover all of the village and appears inactive.
2. Children playing in the streets.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Arrange meeting with coordinators and community policeman	Action Committees	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	
2	Set up a young persons forum to obtain their ideas and encourage involvement in the community	Action Committees	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	
3	Review street and footpath lighting	Action committees	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	
4	Review state of local pavements and footpaths	Action Committees	3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr 08	





## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### ENVIRONMENT.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. Litter picking service is too infrequent.
2. Road sweeping service is too infrequent.
3. Dog fouling pavements and church yard.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Litter Organize local teams for a 'Tidy up day'	Action Committees	Twice yearly	
2	Litter Enter Bramshall in the Best Kept Village Competition	Action Committees all residents	Start 2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	Action team required
3	Dog Fouling. Report anyone that you see allowing their dog to break the law to " The Enforcement Team " at ESBC.	Everybody	NOW	
4	Road sweeping. Approach ESBC	Parish Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 08	
5	Address Green issues within the village	Action Committees	3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr 08	Should be ongoing



## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### HOUSING.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. The survey did not clearly show that additional houses were welcome or not, but no large scale estates were acceptable because it would make the village too large.
2. The survey did not clearly show if there was a need for affordable starter homes.
3. The survey was not clear on a policy for re-use of redundant farm buildings.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Additional homes: Ascertain resident's views at next Public Forum of Parish Plan Proposal	Parish Council  Village Agent	TBA	
2	Affordable Starter Homes: Ascertain resident's views at next public forum of Parish Plan Proposal.	Parish Council  Village Agent	TBA	
3	Redundant Farm Buildings: Ascertain resident's views at next Public Forum of Parish Plan Proposal.	Parish Council  Village Agent	TBA	





## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE PLAN.

### LACK OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. A village shop is needed.
2. Transport Facilities

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1	Ascertain real demand at the next public meeting	Action committees Staff Community council	Next public meeting	
2	Allotments Ascertain the real demand at next public meeting	Action Committee	TBA	
3	Improve bus services and transport for the elderly	Action committees	3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr 08	



## BRAMSHALL VILLAGE ACTION PLAN.

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

#### IDENTIFIED PROBLEM FROM SURVEY IN 2005.

1. The Industrial Estate "Bramshall Camp" has grown too large and causes a major traffic problems for the village, especially HGV's.
2. The Industrial Estate is an "eyesore" , landscaping is required.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	COMMENT
1.	Object to any additional businesses planning proposals.	Parish Council	When submitted	
2	Object to any planning proposals for change of use that will mean more HGV's.	Parish Council	When Submitted.	
3	Insist that all new planning proposals include landscaping	Parish Council	When Submitted	
4	Categorize existing businesses with poor or no landscaping. Write to them and ask politely if as good neighbours they could improve the environment.	Action Committee And Parish Council	TBA	



## Appendix

### **Village Activities & Contacts**

**Mondays**

**National Childbirth Trust, 10:00am- Noon**

Contact :- Emily Ball, 01538 703954

**Tuesday**

**U3A Country Dancing 2-4pm**

Short Mat Bowls 7:30 – 9:30pm

Contact :- Harold Richardson, 01889 567763

**Wednesday**

**Bramshall Arts Club 9:00am – Noon**

Contact :- Mrs A Harris, 01889566006

**Kids Club 7 – 9pm**

Contact, Jackie Potter 01889 562447

**Gardening Club 7:30 (Last Weds. Monthly)**

Contact, Clive Tuck 01889568090

**Thursday**

**Tumble Tots 9am – Noon**

Contact, Wendy Campbell, 01509 414826

**Yoga 7:30 – 9:00pm**

Mike Gould, 01889566980

**Friday**

**Extend – Gentle Exercise Club (Mornings)**

**Young Farmers – Events through the year Contact, Molly Brookes, 01889502360**

**Lifeboat Luncheon – Fund raising – Mrs Anne Harris, 01889566006**

**Church Fund raising – Carole Postlethwaite, 01889563982**

**Church – Various events, Harvest Supper, Summer and Christmas functions**