



## Collision Hot Spot to Safe Junction by Matt Melvin

After a lot of campaigning and publicising the danger of the twin roundabouts on the Pepper Street/Scot Hay Road/Sutton Avenue and the Buxton Ave/Scot Hay Road/Sutton Avenue junctions, I am pleased to see the completion of the improvements made to both junctions where speed humps, splitter Islands, re-marking of the road surfaces and signage have been installed. It has been a long hard fight and some said nothing would ever get changed until some one was killed! My aim was to make those responsible to be pro-active about this situation and make Staffordshire Highways Authority aware of their moral and legal duties to protect the road users and the public, in particular to minors using the route to school.

I started campaigning after I was witness to a multi vehicle collision in the winter of 2015 at the roundabout junction of Pepper Street/Scot Hay Road/Sutton Avenue which involved me throwing my daughter out of the way as one vehicle was bulldozed by another towards us and mounted the kerb after a side on impact and the driver continued to



accelerate into the side impacted vehicle due to shock of the impact! One of the first successful stages was to be awarded funding to have a Lollipop person in place during school pick up and drop off but I was not going to stop at that as I wanted to fix the problem!

Silverdale Parish Council have fully supported the campaign and County Councillor Dave Jones has worked hard on this with me to ensure we made these junctions a safer route for all using his budget and resources. Speaking to locals within the immediate vicinity of the junctions, they say how they have seen the speed of vehicles reduce due to the junction improvements and the design has really worked, the islands force cars to slow down in order to execute wider turns onto the approaching road and not cut across the roundabout and end up onto the wrong side of the road. It has made residents less nervous about the potential of vehicles seriously injuring someone or even ending up with a vehicle in their garden.



# Tribute to Pastor Edwin Cotter by Jake Wu



Like many residents in Silverdale, everyone at Silverdale Parish Council was deeply saddened and are grieving the loss of Pastor Edwin Cotter, the Senior Minister of Cornerstone Elim Church, when he passed away and later laid to rest in April 2020.

Pastor Edwin, a lovely Northern Irish man, succeeded Pastor David Williams at the Elim Church about 15 years ago, and had since transformed and further grown the Church over the years while also honouring its past and the history of Silverdale, with distinct devotion.

No doubt a man of his faith, Pastor Edwin has always been passionate in 'Serving the Community' regardless of people's personal religious beliefs, and indeed made a tremendous impact to the wider community in Silverdale, way beyond the three church congregations he oversaw.

He engaged with and supported many people and families and was loved and well respected by many across our village. This was clearly shown by the numerous tributes that kept flooding in in the days and weeks after his passing. There was an emotional minute of applause organised by local people on Easter Sunday, as well as hundreds if not thousands of tributes on social media. Many floral tributes were also laid near Pastor Edwin's house and outside of the church. Selfless, generous, funny, loving, humorous, caring, humble, larger than life were only a few of many words that the people described him.

Pastor Edwin was instrumental in providing numerous inclusive community projects. Working with approximately 1000 people each week, the majority of whom were from the Silverdale area. Examples include food bank, charity shop, the stay and play group, youth groups, luncheon club, café, Silverlinks Befriending scheme and Silverlinks Arm Chair exercise for the over 50's, Happy Snappers Camera club, Allotment Gardening Project and the two community centres (Cornerstone Silverdale on Mill Street and Cornerstone Knutton) which provided the essential facilities.

Most recently, he was hugely supportive of the Memories of Mine project and the Elim Church hosted one of the lantern making workshops back in February. He was also planning to take the idea forward to incorporate the lantern parade into the village Christmas activities that he was always keen to organise to bring people together. We are therefore also thankful for his hard work in providing the village Christmas lights switch on events in the past, and the recent village Christmas parties for children. He already had grand plans for Christmas 2020, with a village pantomime as well as the lantern parade.

Pastor Edwin was also actively involved with both primary schools in Silverdale in providing assemblies, messy church, craft activities and gifts and so on. Many children have also benefited from the free school uniform project during the summer of 2019. The children in Silverdale Primary Academy, where Pastor Edwin served as a governor, recorded beautiful songs as tributes to him. St Luke's Primary School has since dedicated their school library to Pastor Edwin.

We are eternally grateful for all the contribution Pastor Edwin made to our village and as ever our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Lorna, and his sons Aaron and Sam. Pastor Edwin will never be forgotten. Together with our residents we will carry on serving the community in honour of his legacy.



# The Great School Uniform Giveaway



Sadly we are unable to hold a Great School Uniform Giveaway event this year due to Covid-19. However if you are struggling to afford school uniform please contact your child's school directly and ask for help through this scheme. Schools taking part include Silverdale Primary Academy, St Lukes C of E Primary School and Knutton St Mary's C of E Academy. Funding is available from the Realise Foundation, Silverdale Elim Church and Silverdale Parish Council to provide clothing, pencil cases, pencils, pens, rubbers, sharpeners etc.

## **SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH** **Fridays = Food Parcel day!**

We know that these last few months have been hard, and because of that we want to help even more. So, if you need one (a Food Parcel), please feel free to drop-in between 6pm & 6:15pm (on a Friday, every Friday) to collect it - if you can't get to us, just let us know (via one of the below ways) and we will deliver it to you. Or, if you know someone-else that may need one, no matter what their age or circumstance, then either Private Message us on 'Facebook', send an e-mail to [Leetleighton@aol.com](mailto:Leetleighton@aol.com), or call 07403 534575 – if you let us have the name & address of who needs them, we will make sure that they are dropped-off. And please, don't be shy - please do let us know of anyone who may be in-need of one (or anything-else)! Feel free to contact us if you need more info.!

# The Dog Walking Code



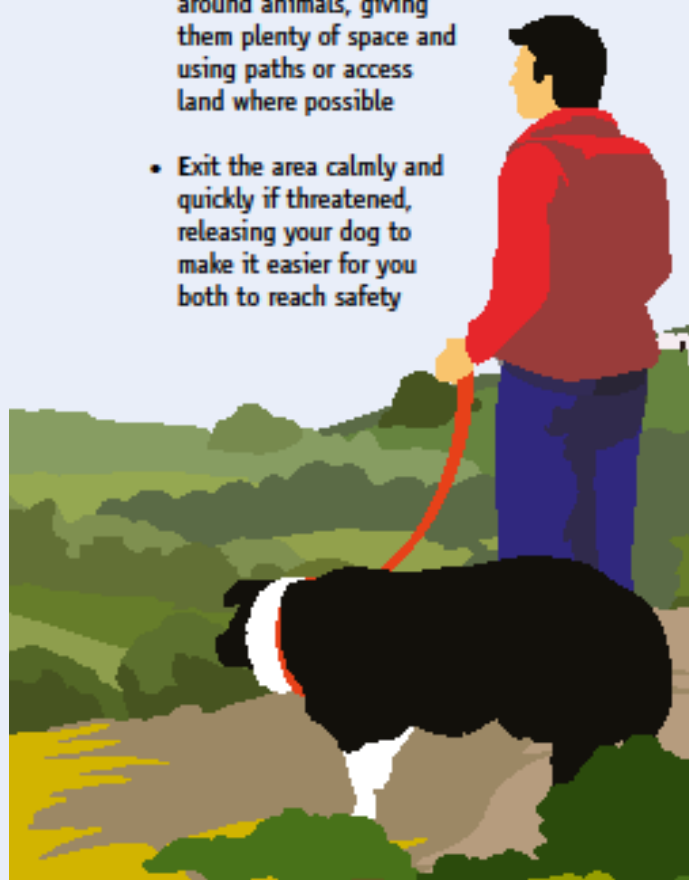
**For safe and happy walks with your dog, and to avoid causing problems for others:**

1. Ensure your dog is under effective control, which means:
  - You have a short lead with you and use it when needed (e.g. around livestock, near cliff edges or where signage requests it)
  - You do not let your dog off the lead unless you keep it in sight and close enough to come back to you on command
2. Prevent your dog from approaching horse riders, cyclists, or other people and their dogs uninvited.
3. Keep your dog with you on paths or access land and don't let it stray into crops including fields of grass, fruit and vegetables.
6. Always bag and bin your dog's poo wherever you are. You can use any public waste bin or your bin at home.
7. Never leave bags of dog poo lying around, even if you intend to pick them up later. Containers and deodorised bags can make them easier to carry.
8. Ensure your details are on your dog's collar and it is microchipped, so you can be reunited quickly if it is lost.
9. Keep your dog's vaccinations and worming up to date. Ask your vet for more information.
10. Contact your local authority, or look out for signs, to get more information about what to do and where to go in your area.

4. Never let your dog worry or chase wildlife or livestock. Follow advice on local signs to reduce disturbance to plants and animals.

5. Stay **SAFE** around farm animals and horses:

- Stop, look and listen before entering a field; be aware of any animals present
- Always keep your dog on a short lead
- Find the safest route around animals, giving them plenty of space and using paths or access land where possible
- Exit the area calmly and quickly if threatened, releasing your dog to make it easier for you both to reach safety



This information was provided for the benefit of those who access Silverdale Country Park. If you have any concerns please visit :

<https://www.facebook.com/SilverdaleCountryPark>



## A Dog is a Man's (or Woman's) Best Friend: Silverdale Country Park wants your views!



*Silverdale Country Park is to run an open online consultation regarding the use of dog leads on the park. We want to hear your views and opinions, how you use the park, what you enjoy most about it, and how you feel about the issue of dogs on or off their leads.*

Dogs off leads is a consistent bone of contention for many people. For some, their dog is perfectly behaved whilst off a lead, returns when called, and stays happily on the footpath, all in line with the dog walking code. However there is a whole range of other situations between this and the worst behaved dogs (or owners), who might be prone to attacking people or wildlife.

There have been number of dog-related incidents at Silverdale Country Park over the last few years, with some causing people major issues relating either to their health, or finances as a result of extensive vet bills. It is for this reason that the on-site management team at Silverdale Country Park are assessing how the park is used by dog owners, and exploring options for how we can keep the park's visitors and wildlife safer.

Over August and September, we will be compiling and releasing an online consultation so that we can get your views on issues such as dogs on or off leads. This consultation will be published on Survey Monkey, and there will also be a chance for people to get involved in the next Friends of Silverdale Country Park meeting, which will cover more general issues, and is likely to be held online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

### ***How do you hear about the consultation?***

Over the next couple of months, keep an eye on the site noticeboards and the park's Facebook page. A URL web link will be shared and we would like to encourage everyone to have their say. We are really keen to hear from all park users to collect a wide range of opinions and views, so that we can make an informed decision about the future of dogs and their leads on the park.

The park has a vast range of different users, from fitness groups, dog walkers, forest schools, wildlife watchers, walkers and is used by many for general leisure. It is YOUR park, so we want to do our best to continue to keep it as a wonderful place for all to visit.



### ***Don't forget the dog walking code***

Always make sure you are following UK Dog Walking Code when using the park for the safety of your dog, wildlife and visitors: <https://naturalresources.wales/media/4862/the-dog-walking-code.pdf>

# Silverdale Parish Council Chair's Annual Report

## **Silverdale Parish Council (PC) Budget**

Silverdale PC reported a small increase in the Precept for 20/21 (£18.98 per Band D property). The funding will be used for things that directly benefit the Parish of Silverdale eg measures to combat ASB, asset maintenance and also keeping the village clean and tidy. Due to Covid-19, we held remote meetings and continued to operate as a local democratic parish organisation with entirely new challenges and remain intact to offer continuity as we recover from the health emergency.

## **Miner's Tribute Restoration (Heritage Lotteries Fund)**

Earlier in 2020 London based conservators Plowden & Smith were awarded the contract to remove and restore in their workshop. Plowden & Smith are a leading provider of specialist restoration services being professionally accredited to the Institute of Conservation and a member of the International Council of Museums. Sadly, due to lockdown, the removal was postponed until the summer.

The community engagement element of the project had also progressed well with a memory collecting event on 14th January 2020. Badge and Lantern making events also took place on 15th and 18th February 2020. Other theatre and film performances have been postponed, including The Proud Valley partly filmed in Silverdale about 1939 (starring actor-activist Paul Robeson) to be introduced by Professor of Film Ray Johnson MBE.

This is along with the glorious lantern parade that so many youngsters and their families were looking forward to and due on 28 March 2020, which was postponed for the second time. These elements will be picked up again later in 2020.

## **Flooding Risks**

Silverdale Parish Council has worked closely with County Councillor Dave Jones. Improvements to drains at Church Road were carried out and intermittent flash flooding problems identified at Silverdale Rd/Cemetery Rd and Underwood Rd/Pepper St. We found out that Highways set the bar very high for some important mitigation work; at least 10 household had to be affected within their homes and some areas prone to were judged 'low priority'.

A consultant's report for NBC in October 2019 showed there were parts of Silverdale, Knutton and Cross Heath with vulnerability. More detailed investigation were requested in a report for the Newcastle and Kildgrove Town Deal, a national scheme for regenerating about 100 towns in England.

## **Heritage Park Play Areas**

Silverdale Parish Council opposed the plans by developer, David Wilson Homes to reduce the amount of play space below the original planning permission granted in 2007 and the issue is ongoing with Planning. During the lockdown anti-social behaviour in defiance of social distance guidelines has occurred. We have worked with local police and contractors to cordon off the play areas.

## **Pepper Street & Scot Hay Road Mini Roundabout**

Councillors highlighted the traffic hazards particularly for school children repeatedly last year. Following intervention from County Councillor Dave Jones and lobbying from Parish Councillor Matt Melvin, the Highways Department are now making the roundabout improvements.

## **Skateboard and Scooter Ramp (NBC with Western Communities LAP)**

Cllr Amelia Rout led the group which secured over £90,000 of funding from Red Industries, Ibstocks, NBC and 'a sponsored silence'. Tenders will be sought for a possible start later in the year.



# Silverdale Parish Council Chair's Annual Report...cont'd

## **Joint Local Plan and Keele Golf Course Site**

Keele Golf course lies mostly within Silverdale and is owned by the Borough Council. Master planning by the Borough Council with Keele University created a consultation exercise chaired by the Borough Council's Chief Executive with Keele and Silverdale parishes invited. The Joint Local Plan of Newcastle and Stoke on Trent proposes that 1,200 houses in a mixed development on the site, with the promise of another primary school and some retail.

It still represents a threat to the identity of the parish. Merging Silverdale with Keele creates a big suburb with the loss of 80 hectares (one third of a square mile) of greenbelt. There's no guarantee of infrastructure, such as new road or roundabout construction on the A525. Other problems, such as parking, public transport, school catchment and land drainage is affected as well as further pressure on our services, doctors, dentists and specialist retail.

As housing need numbers did not stack up, and future housing and employment demand is uncertain Silverdale Parish Council opposes the revised master plan. Silverdale Parish Council will be looking to work with Keele Parish to join forces and issue a joint statement against moving the green belt for the development.

## **Preventing illegal use of motor bikes**

Last August councillors met with police and walked the mineral line to discuss solutions to dangerous use by illegal bikes. Installation of kissing gates and fencing at Station Rd would prevent entry and exit of illegal motorbikes. Work started in March 2020 and will complete when conditions allow.

## **Landfill Odour and Discharge Limit**

Odour from Walley's Quarry had been raised in the election campaign and afterwards by new MP Aaron Bell. Environment Agency's Air Quality Survey noted levels of gasses and pollutants were not sufficiently high to exceed WHO guidelines. The official 'mystery' over the air pollution has been solved but residents were dismayed to learn the odour is within international norms. Our experience is that the bar is set too high for air pollution to be a health hazard. MP Aaron Bell argued in his major speech for further legislation. We will pursue the passage of the 2019-21 Environmental Protection Bill containing legally-binding environmental improvement targets.

Red Industries applied to increase the amount of waste tonnage per year from 250,000 to 400,000. The Parish Council opposed this in two consultation responses. The Chief Environmental Health Officer and Planning reported their reservations. We were shocked to learn during one liaison meeting that the limit had been temporarily changed for 2019. The Scrutiny Committee of the Borough Council are due to complete their investigation and report once the site visit by councillors has taken place.

## **Silverdale Community Payback Service**

To address concerns of reducing environmental services provided by the Borough and County Council, the Parish Council have appointed a team of Community Payback workers. Although this has also been paused for the current Covid-19 restrictions, when they are active again they will address environmental matters of concern across the Parish.

Henryk Adamczuk (Chair)



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

# Local Officers **Newcastle West**



@NewcastlePolice

**PCSO 24915**  
**Charlotte Perkins**

**PCSO 25935**  
**Jessica Yearsley**

**PC 26550**  
**Adam Coomer**

**PC 5786**  
**Del Slater**

**Newcastle West**

You can contact Silverdale Policing Team at 101, by entering their collar number— PC 26550 Adam Coomer, PC 5786 Del Slater, PCSO 24915 Charlotte Perkins or PCSO 25935 Jessica Yearsley. Please report any suspicious activity involving people, vehicles or premises—this may assist with the prevention and detection of crime.

**Call 101 for further advice or visit [www.staffordshire.police.uk](http://www.staffordshire.police.uk)**

**Community Speedwatch Silverdale** is now operational in the Parish. If you would like to volunteer please contact Michelle Shaker on 01785-232702 or [csw@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:csw@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)



# Housing Development at Keele Golf Course and the Joint Local Plan **What's on offer for Silverdale?**

**Henryk Adamczuk, Chair Silverdale Parish Council**

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council (NBC) and Keele Growth Corridor

NBC want to sell off the former golf course to a housing developer for an estimated £40 million. But the fly in the ointment is the Green Belt, a legal buffer designed to protect the open nature of the environment and restrict development which otherwise just joins towns together.

So NBC needs to exclude the land from the Green Belt. That change comes in a process known as the Joint Local Plan (with Stoke on Trent), which will re-start in autumn 2020. The council are hoping to get a policy decision through by April 2021, paving the way for a change in the designation of the land. However, before it is confirmed they have to convince a planning inspector to agree the policy change on the basis of 'exceptional circumstances' and all the new houses needed for the district are accurately calculated.

The parish council opposes the development in principle. It would create one huge suburb merging Silverdale with Keele and there are two further reasons:

## **1 Existing and Alternative uses within the Green Belt**

The land is valuable and desirable as it stands. There are about 8,000 trees, mostly broad leaved species providing sustenance to a huge range of animal life. The parish council wants to commission an ecology survey to identify all the habitats and wildlife species that live there, particularly protected species such as bats, badgers, birds and amphibians.

Re-drawing the Green Belt boundary to Keele Cemetery is not necessary as there are many alternative uses without damaging the environment. If the council's proposal failed then another review considering outdoor activities and permitted uses within the Green Belt will be necessary.

## **2 New Roads, Roundabouts and Underground Services**

A development of this size needs road and roundabout improvements. At peak times there are bottlenecks at roundabouts, dual carriageway and Cemetery Road. We will challenge NBC and Keele University to explain how the siting of so many people could be contemplated without better roads and allied services for broadband, electrical, gas, sewerage and waste and water services. These are services to be provided purely on account of the new housing estate.

The number of new houses is not sustainable without massive investment in infrastructure and then is it really worth it even to the council with all the extra costs?

**So what is on offer to Silverdale?** The loss of one third of a square mile of open woodland and its wildlife adding great pressure on our services, mainly for the



# MEMORIES OF MINE

**A series of local events  
highlighting the stories of  
Silverdale Colliery and  
its Mining Community**



Photo by Claude Haggart - Silverdale 1982

## **Share your Mining Memories**

Get in touch with your  
stories of Silverdale Colliery,  
the Working Mens Clubs  
and the mining community.

Dig out all those photos  
and help to create a  
picture of how things  
were and how we got to  
where we are now.

**Contact us with your  
stories and photos**

Online  
**memoriesofmine.co.uk**

Phone  
**07921 126692**

Email  
**info@memoriesofmine.co.uk**

Supported by







## Project Update

Well, we didn't see that coming! Just as we got going on the **Memories of Mine** Heritage Fund project we had a storm that postponed the lantern parade and a pandemic that put the project on hold.



Our Heritage Project Manager, Sarah, is still working behind the scenes to make sure the project happens when it is safe for us to do so. The lanterns are stored safely away at B arts ready for when we can all come together and we are looking at ways that we can do things slightly differently if we need to. We have lots of things planned.

The big news is that the mining tribute, which was due to happen just before lockdown, has gone away for restoration. Conservators from Plowden & Smith, specialist restorers, have taken the monument apart and moved it to their workshops to clean and treat it. The plinth will also be repaired before the monument is put back together. This work will make the monument better protected from the weather in future. We are looking forward to celebrating the restoration with you all soon.



## Still To Come



Recreating Silverdale's mining banner and making new banners for Silverdale



A new commemorative mining badge for Silverdale is being designed inspired by the designs from the community

Film nights by Ray Johnson from Staffordshire Film Archive

Collecting and recording memories of Silverdale's Working Men's Club

Community Lantern Parade

Family theatre show created from people's memories of Silverdale

Community event to celebrate the restoration of the mining tribute

For more details or to be added to the mailing list for the project, please email [info@sarahbonam.co.uk](mailto:info@sarahbonam.co.uk), follow **Silverdale Parish Council's Facebook** page or call Sarah on 07921 126692



# Spotlight on Silverdale Parish Council



## Henryk Adamczuk

Henryk was brought up in Bradford by parents who fled the Nazi occupation of Poland.

In London he worked in the management of high rise council housing and

development. He began to teach students once a week, liked to share ideas and re-trained as a lecturer. Eventually he moved to Birmingham City University on professional qualification courses.

Coming to Newcastle in 1993 with his family to bring up his two daughters, he finally moved to Silverdale in 2004. In 2016 he retired to volunteer in citizen's advice but also began playing guitar in a jazz band. Since May 2016 he has worked with colleagues, borough councillors and partners to complete projects that leave a lasting legacy for Silverdale Parish. He reports anti-social behaviour, blocked drains, potholes, and fly-tipping which take up huge amounts of time. More needs to be done in the future to get the basics done.

## Jake Wu

Jake, a relatively new Parish Councillor and local resident, moved with his family and settled in Silverdale 6 years ago due to a new job at Keele University

where he works full-time as a software developer in the IT Services. He previously lived and was educated in Newcastle (upon Tyne) and has 2 young daughters. Jake, a naturalised UK Citizen, joined the Parish Council 2 years ago and his passion has always been serving people and the local community. 'I joined the Parish Council because I love this village with the beautiful surroundings, wonderful heritage, and most importantly the lovely people here. I'm glad to join a great team with the like-minded people to work on improving various aspects that would benefit all of us in the community'. Currently he is particularly interested in the work concerning opposition to the Keele Golf Course development, Christmas events and road safety issues.



## Silverdale Parish Council Councillors (2018—2022)

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