

District Councillor Joe Porter – September Report to Brown Edge Parish Council

LATEST COUNCILLORS' SURGERY

Community safety was firmly at the top of the agenda at our latest councillors' surgery at Morrisons Daily Brown Edge. A big thank you to everyone who stopped by to speak with us and raise the issues that matter to you.

We had some really useful conversations with local residents about Knypersley Reservoir, antisocial behaviour at Tinsters Wood, e-scooters and off-road bikes, dangerous driving, grass verge maintenance, overgrown hedges and more.

It was also great to catch up with Deputy Commissioner Cllr Dave Evans and PCSO Josh Carter from Staffordshire Moorlands Police today to discuss Operation Reclaim and the ongoing work to tackle the illegal and antisocial use of e-scooters and off-road bikes across Staffordshire.

This is an issue local residents have raised with our team, and we've been working with our local policing team to ensure those concerns are acted upon. Please continue reporting incidents to the police – the more reports they receive, the better they can target resources where they are most needed.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your views, concerns and ideas. Listening to residents, working with our local policing teams and taking action on the issues that matter to our community remains at the heart of what we do. We're here, listening and working for our community all year round.

HELP US PROTECT MARSHES HILL

We've seen recently just how devastating wildfires can be! Please don't be the cause and help prevent them at local beauty spots, such as Marshes Hill in Brown Edge.

Don't use disposable BBQs.
Don't light campfires.
Dispose of smoking materials responsibly.
Take litter home.
Report any signs of fire by calling 999.

I've worked with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to get additional signage installed on the site to help raise awareness.

PRIDE IN THE MOORLANDS UPDATE

We came together to reflect on a truly successful #PrideInTheMoorlands 2026 — a historic occasion for the Staffordshire Moorlands, filled with colour, celebration, happiness, joy and an incredible sense of community spirit.

The weekend was wonderfully family-friendly and full of fun, with an amazing turnout of support from across the Moorlands.

One of the most heartwarming moments has been speaking recently with a local lesbian couple who told me they felt comfortable holding hands in public for the first time as a result of Pride. That is what community, visibility and inclusion are all about.

A HUGE thank you to OUTSIDE and to our incredible steering group, volunteers, performers, artists, partners, sponsors, photographers, stallholders and everyone who came along to celebrate and helped make Pride in the Moorlands possible.

As a local councillor and community volunteer, it is a real privilege to play a small part in our wonderful organising committee alongside some amazing people.

Our Pride was filled with colour, celebration and community — and we're only getting started.

Onwards and upwards to Pride 2027!

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Lots happening on the community speed watch front with our Community Speed Watch volunteers. Please contact us at csw@staffordshire.police.uk and joe.porter@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk to get involved and support our work.

- High Lane, Brown Edge – 6 drivers speeding out of 325

UPDATE ON PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 55 HOMES IN BROWN EDGE

Following the summer break, I wanted to provide local residents with a quick update on planning application SMD/2026/0201, for up to 55 dwellings off Breach Road, Brown Edge.

The application is still being considered by planning officers, who are continuing to liaise with external stakeholders before making their recommendation. It will then be considered at a future Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Applications Committee meeting.

I have been advised today that the application will not be considered at the September meeting. It could go to the October or November meeting, or potentially a later meeting if there are any further delays.

Please be assured that I will continue to keep local residents and Brown Edge Parish Council updated as soon as I receive any further information.

Thank you to everyone who submitted comments on the application and for your continued interest and engagement on this important local issue.

HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY TO BROWN EDGE LUNCH CLUB!

This week marked the 15th anniversary of Brown Edge Lunch Club, which was founded by the late Margaret Boon and has continued to go from strength to strength thanks to an incredible team of dedicated volunteers.

A huge congratulations to the whole team on reaching this fantastic milestone and on creating one of the most successful and valued groups in our community. 15 years of friendship, food, laughter and bringing people together is certainly something to celebrate!

Thank you for inviting me and fellow councillors to join you for such a special occasion, alongside current members, past members and other guests.

And, most importantly, thank you to everyone who has volunteered, donated, helped, supported or been part of Brown Edge Lunch Club over the past 15 years. Your time, kindness and commitment have made such a positive difference to so many people.

Wishing Brown Edge Lunch Club many more years of friendship, happiness, joy and laughter in the years ahead! Happy 15th anniversary!