

District Report Cllr. Keith Flunder September 2026

For the Brown Edge Parish Council meeting Sept. 7th 2026

If there are any concerns or questions that parish councillors wish to ask me, then please phone me.

1. LGR Update and summary: -

- a) Today the Government have announced a pause on the LGR process and will be re-assessing / reviewing our area's / Staffs CC process and result!!!!!! This probably means that the District Councils elections will go ahead in May 2027 and not the planned Unitary elections. But who knows things change so quickly with the current Government.
- b) The devolution process will continue....., but may change?.....
- c) Please give myself, officers and other councillors some time to process what's been announced in Parliament today (Sept 7th 2026)
- d) Parish and Town councils will still need to log both their physical assets and community groups and activities. These will include public areas and street furniture etc. It is hoped that this process will help them look at their own assets and support their own local strategic plans, which can be completed in detail before March 2027.
- e) Future meetings and possible visits to parishes are also available. Although it might be best to get a report on the agenda from the planned locality meetings..
- f) I'm still hopeful that there will be some assistance from SMDC, as to the best way to transfer any community assets in the remaining time period.

- 2. The Parish Assembly and the SPCA will support Parish and Town councils over the coming years to produce their own plans. The SPCA has organised an Asset Transfer meeting this evening which will be available on-line in a few days. The AGM will take place in Uttoxeter with exhibition in early November.
- 3. I was asked to report back to the Parish Council about the UKSPF projects that the District Council are currently completing. I will be receiving more information through the Services Delivery committee in the autumn and attending an opening day event. Next Service Delivery meeting is this Wednesday Sept. 9th in the evening.
- 4. The Leek Leisure Centre has opened. The Nicholson Institute project (£3.2 Million) is still on-going with the library now operating on the ground floor of Moorlands House, until the building is ready to be moved back into. This is due for completion later in the year (possibly early 2027?).

5. There has also been more UKSPF funding made available (just under £1 million) for other projects around the Staffordshire Moorlands partly related to Arts and Culture.
6. Brown Bin charges started from June 29th 2026, for residents in the SMDC district. Residents need to register as soon as possible if they want their bin to still be collected. The food bin service has received complaints, and the services team are contacting the local residents who have had issues. A meeting with the officers and cabinet members concerned has resulted in more awareness of the issues across Brown Edge and Endon.
7. The Green Space maps have been delivered to Brown Edge councillors.
8. Other local projects I'm currently looking into, include playgrounds / cycle/skate parks and parking areas to support local activities and community projects.
9. The district council has been placed in 'special measures', meaning applicants for larger applications can now go directly to the national Planning Inspectorate if they wish. SMDC officers are looking at how these measures can be lifted as soon as possible. The next Planning Committee meeting is on Sept. 10th. I have been lobbied about the application for development along Breech Lane, and an enforcement notice is currently being appealed.
10. The CIF fund has now been reopened for 2026/27, with 3 applications being processed / agreed.
11. Other future and recent meetings will include a street furniture working group meeting.
12. There are a couple of surgeries planned in Sept and Oct., dates to be promoted... Questions? Please call me on 07836 526834 or send me an email at keith.flunder@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk