

Broadholes Lane Allotment

Wheaton Aston

On 19th March 2026 I met with Amy Watson-Parish Council Manager & Rob Sharratt-Leisure & Health Team Manager at South Staffordshire Councils to discuss and visit their state-of-the-art Allotment on Broadholes lane. In response to enquiries about a possible site in the parish Amy first had the idea in early 2020 to change the current use of the land which as you can see from the photos below it was unloved and overgrown. These were the first steps in taking the idea forward.

Broadholes Lane change of use investigation

- October 2020: residents in the immediate vicinity were contacted for suggestions on what could be a better use.
- January 2021: several responses were received to a consultation, one response suggested that a section 106 has been placed up on the land to keep it as an open space in perpetuity.
- Majority in favour of allotments.
- January 2021: contacted legal team at South Staffs Council to ascertain if the land has a section 106.
- January 2021: contacted South Staffs Council to consider their role in the change of use and the possible sale of the land to Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parrish Council.
- March 2021: sent a pre application enquiry form to meet with a planner and discuss possible uses for the land.
- Full consultation was required after the planning meeting.
- July 2021: Amy as Clerk had a meeting with Rob Sharratt and Staffordshire County council to discuss the area. They confirmed that the area would be best used as allotments.
- Planning advice received: *Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council need to have several items such as agricultural impact assessments and Eco report in place before submitting a planning application.*
- January 2022: Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Parish Council and officers from South Staffs Council meet with representatives from the Allotments Association and they confirmed that the land is

suitable for approximately 12 half plots and offered to support the Parish Council with the project.

- January 2022: news and views were sent to all households in the parish with a letter of consultation inviting responses. The parish council planned to consider the area in the March meeting and hold an event at the village hall with plans based on the determination.



Here are the rough Timelines for the allotment following consultations.

April

- Hold meeting with Staffordshire County council to establish ownership
- Appoint architect for plans

May

- Prepare planning application to include:
 - Assessment of impact on highway safety
 - AIA (arboriculture impact assessment)
 - Ecology survey
 - Plans

June

- Complete paperwork:
 - obtain legal advice

- tenancy agreement
- rulebook
- plot details
- invoices

September

- Appoint contractor to complete works

October

- Work begins

February

- Handover to Parish Council
- Tenants are offered plot- contracts from 1.2.23

March

- Growing season

As you can see from the above, everything was planned to the last detail.

Below are images of the plots being marked out with compost bins on every plot.



As shown, you can see there is a large tarmac driveway with disabled parking to allow accessibility to everyone along with raised beds making it accessible for wheelchair users or people with health issues.



Below are photos of the allotment plots being planted and growing an array of veg and fruit.







The cost of the plots per year as follows:

Large plots £50

Raised Beds £15

Water use £5

The total cost from start to finish of this whole project was around £70000.00 which came from parish council money and other funding grants.

It's great to see the various ways that people use their space and some of the handmade polytunnels and frames to grow their crops



The potting shed was paid for by the climate change team at Staffordshire County Council as a community share point for surplus fruit and veg. Some garden tools are also stored in there making it easier, so people don't have to carry heavy tools each time they visit.

There are regular visits and checks made to the allotment to ensure the plots are being looked after and the Parish Council maintain the grounds.

There has been a lot of hard work and planning gone into this project over a period of 3 years, but I think we can all agree it is a fantastic result. The disused land is now a hive of activity bringing together a local

community with a common interest in growing their own fruit and vegetables. Residents spend many hours in this green space, getting fresh air, exercise, building friendships, sharing knowledge and are very proud of their allotment.



You can see above that chickens are also kept on the allotment and lay a daily supply of fresh eggs. They eat a lot of the fruit and veg that are over ripe and can't be eaten by humans, along with weeds and plant roots making them very cheap and easy to keep.



The Forest of Mercia has planted fruit trees all around the perimeter of the allotments so users can pick and eat fresh fruit throughout the season.

I think Amy, Rob and the team should be very proud of what they have achieved, and it goes to show anything is possible if you persevere long enough.

If you would like any more information about this project, you can contact either of the following people.

Amy Watson - office@wheatonastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Rob Sharratt - r.sharratt@sstaffs.gov.uk

Completed by – Ann Gray on behalf of better health Staffordshire South Staffordshire partnership.

Please get in touch if you have a story to share at

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