

SPRING 2025

PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 77

FULFORD
PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2025 - ISSUE 77

PARISH CHAIR



Cllr Gareth Brunt

As the new Chairman of Fulford Parish Council, it is both my duty and my pleasure to explain a little more about who we are, what we do, and why your parish council matters.

Fulford Parish Council is your first and most local level of government. We are here to represent the interests of residents across our parish, which includes the villages of Fulford, Meir Heath, Rough Close, Blythe Bridge, Stallington, Moss Gate and Saverley Green. Our role is to work closely with the community to maintain and improve our shared environment, protect our local heritage, and ensure that your voice is heard.

The council's responsibilities are wide-ranging. We manage and maintain several key local assets, including village greens, public open spaces, and children's play areas. We look after many of the bus shelters, benches, and noticeboards you see around the parish.

We also support projects to keep our villages clean, safe, and welcoming — from litter picking initiatives to minor maintenance works.

Beyond our direct management duties, Fulford Parish Council acts as a consultee on a range of issues. When planning applications are made within the parish, we carefully review them and submit our comments to Stafford Borough Council, ensuring that local knowledge and community concerns are taken into account. We also liaise with Staffordshire County Council on matters like road safety, traffic calming, and public rights of way.

Importantly, we strive to support community activities. We provide grants to local organisations, help with events such as the Remembrance Day services, and collaborate with groups like the Village Hall Committees, churches, and schools. Our aim is to strengthen the sense of community that makes Fulford Parish such a special place to live.

www.fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Gemma Keiher-Knapper - Parish Clerk/ RFO
clerk@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk | 07946 169337

PARISH CHAIR

Our work is funded primarily through a small portion of your council tax known as the 'precept.' We take great care to manage these funds responsibly, always seeking to provide good value while delivering real benefits to the parish.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the dedication of your elected councillors — all volunteers — and our hardworking parish clerk. We are here to serve you, to listen to your concerns, and to advocate for the needs of our villages.

I would encourage everyone to get involved where you can — whether by becoming a local parish councillor, attending our meetings, contributing ideas, volunteering for various projects or simply letting us know about local issues that matter to you. Together, we can continue to protect, enhance, and celebrate everything that makes Fulford Parish such a wonderful community.

During the next 12 months myself and all our parish councillors will be committed to increasing projects and activities around the parish, and I will always be available to listen and support our parishioners.

Thank You.



cllrbrunt@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07411 592408

BLYTHE BRIDGE



Cllr Jane White
cllrwhite@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
01782 397981



Cllr Karen Deeth
cllrdeeth@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07814 554886



Cllr Connor Marlow
cllrmarlow@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Paul White
cllrpwhite@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
01782 397981



Cllr Alec Sandiford
asandiford@staffordbc.gov.uk

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BLYTHE BRIDGE

Community Litter Pick

Cllr Marlow and Cllr Brunt recently joined local volunteers for a community litter pick around Blythe Bridge Ward. Fulford Parish Council would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave their time to help keep our area clean and tidy.







If you're interested in joining an organised litter picking group in the future, please get in touch with Cllr Marlow at CllrMarlow@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Together, we can make a real difference in our community!

A Huge Thank You!



The Parish Council extends a heartfelt thank you to Sam, our dedicated Parish Warden, and his wonderful team of volunteers for installing the latest Speed Indicator Display (SID) outside SpringCroft Primary School.

This initiative marks another step in our commitment to road safety. Over the coming years, we aim to install a SID in every Ward to help reduce speeding and create a safer environment for all our residents.

Together, we're making our Parish a safer place to live.



Cllr Anthony Meredith
cllrameredith@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Peter Wilkinson
cllrwilkinson@fulfordparish.gov.uk



Cllr Stephen Green
cllrgreen@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

St. Nicholas' Church

St. Nicholas' Church, Fulford will be celebrating 200 years since the current church was re-built and extended in 1825.

A flower festival and photographs reflecting the history of the church and village will be on display and refreshments will be available over the weekend of 23rd, 24th, & 25th August 2025.



24/38719/Full Stallington Sprink Solar Farm Update

Fulford Parish Council approached Stafford Borough Council Planning Department and asked when a decision will be made for this application, and this is the response:

" This application is a large-scale major development; therefore will need to be heard before a Special Planning Committee. A date for that has not yet been agreed and the application is still pending consideration, once a date is agreed, anyone who has commented on the application will be written to and advised of the committee details."

24/40073/FUL Land East of Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge

The application has been extended to the 27th June to allow time to address the current issues with the proposal, secure the outstanding consultee comments (Highways & Environmental Health) and to present the application to Planning Committee. If & when amended plans are submitted a reconsultation will be carried out.

With regards to the ongoing enforcement matter: the Interim Injunction remains in place and it is being monitored.

APP/Y3425/C/25/3361612

An appeal has been made to the secretary of state against the enforcement notice served by Stafford Borough Council 29th January 2025 in regards to the Land East of Stallington Road.

Help Shape the Future of a School in Your Community!

Are you passionate about education and eager to make a meaningful impact? Fulford Primary School needs you!

We are looking for new Governors to join our Governing Board. No prior experience is required—just a willingness to contribute, learn, and support the school's success.

What Does a Governor Do?

As a Governor, you will:

Help set the school's vision and strategy.

Support and challenge the school's leadership.

Oversee financial management to ensure effective use of resources.

Why Join Us?

Make a real impact on our children and community.

Develop valuable skills in leadership and governance.

Join a committed team dedicated to making a difference.

The role requires around 2 hours per month, making it a manageable yet rewarding way to give back to your community. If you're interested, please get in touch with me. I'd be delighted to answer any questions.

Andy McFarlane a.mcfarlane@fulfordprimary.net

Together, we can create a brighter future for our children and community.

MEIR HEATH



Cllr Angela Noblett
cllrnoblett@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07845 102421



Cllr Teri Elder
cllrelder@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Janet Crossley
cllrcrossley@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
01782 395759



Cllr Carol Baskin
cllrbaskin@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07836 322343

Vacancy

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MEIR HEATH

Meir Heath Grindley Lane Clearance

Fulford Parish Council has been reporting the disappearance of the Grindley Lane footpath to Staffordshire Highways for several years, but unfortunately, no action has been taken.

Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Connor Marlow and a dedicated group of volunteers who gave up their weekend, a large section of the footpath has now been cleared and restored to its original state. This important work has made the path accessible once again for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Fulford Parish Council has now accepted a quote from a contractor to complete the remaining section of the footpath and to ensure its width is regularly maintained going forward.







Volunteers Wanted!

Fulford Parish Council is organising the next **Litter Pick in Meir Heath** and we need your help to keep our community clean and green!

Date: Wednesday 4th June
Time: Meet at 12:30pm
Location: Windmill Car Park

All equipment and risk assessments will be provided — just bring your enthusiasm and community spirit! Interested in volunteering for this litter pick or any future activity in Meir Heath?

Email Cllr Teri Elder at:
cllrtelder@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Let's make Meir Heath sparkle together!

Meir Heath Cricket Club

A very special moment in our amazing club's history. Last week we officially renamed our ground after our Club President Frank Winfield to honour the amazing achievement of entering his 80th year of involvement with the club.

Frank's commitment and dedication over such a long period of time is unbelievable. Thank you Frank for every thing you do, and long may it continue.. It was a very very special day to mark the occasion.

Officially everyone...

Welcome to THE FRANK WINFIELD GROUND at Willow Lane

Congratulations to Frank and his family.







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MEIR HEATH



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ROUGH CLOSE



Cllr Andrew Lovatt
cllrlovatt@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Gareth Brunt
cllrbrunt@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
07411 592408

Vacancy

Notice to Residents Regarding the Common

The Parish Council has received several calls from concerned residents about the condition of the Common.

Please note that the Common is managed by **Stafford Borough Council**, not Fulford Parish Council. However, we understand your concerns and would like to support the community by facilitating a meeting between residents and Stafford Borough Council to discuss the issues and explore ways to maintain and improve the area together.

If you are interested in attending such a meeting, please email Cllr Gareth Brunt with your name and telephone number cllrbrunt@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

If enough residents express interest, the Parish Clerk will be in touch with further details about the meeting.





GENERAL NEWS





Outward timings	
Blythe Bridge Flats, Uttoxeter Road - bus shelter	10:00
Stallington Road, Stallington - bus shelter	10:05
Fulford Village Hall, Fulford Road - bus shelter	10:20
Windmill Pub, Meir Heath - car park	10:26
Morrisons, Stone - car park	10:50
Marks & Spencers, Stone - layby near Canoe Club	11:00

Return timings	
Marks & Spencers, Stone - layby near Canoe Club	13:00
Morrisons, Stone - car park	13:10
Windmill Pub, Meir Heath - car park	13:30
Fulford Village Hall, Fulford Rd - bus shelter	13:36
Stallington Rod, Stallington - bus shelter	13:42
Blythe Bridge Flats, Uttoxeter Road - bus shelter	13:47

GENERAL NEWS



A refuse collection vehicle will be at the following locations between 09-1100hrs:

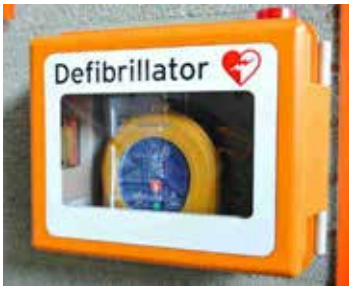
Fulford Village Hall – 29th November 2025

Blythe Bridge Mayfield Drive car park – 25th October 2025

Rough Close Common Lane Layby – 27th September 2025

It does not include such items as soil, rubble, fridges, freezers or televisions, liquid waste, paint waste and hazardous materials**.**

GENERAL NEWS



Free Defibrillator Training

Wednesday 11th June
1900-2000hrs at Meir Heath Village Hall

Monday 23rd June
1930-2030hrs at Fulford Village Hall

Summer SPACE Activities for Children

Organized by Fulford Parish Council & SPACE

Join us for a fun-filled summer in Fulford Parish! We're partnering with SPACE to offer exciting outdoor activities for children, including nature-based adventures and wildlife exploration.

Staffordshire Wildlife Activity

Grindley Park
Thursday 31st July

Additional Activity Days:

Thursday 7th August
Thursday 14th August
Thursday 21st August

Don't miss out on these great opportunities for children to learn, play, and explore in the great outdoors!





Are you ready to **GetWild** this summer with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust?

Thanks to support from Fulford Parish Council and SPACE we are delighted to be returning to Grindley Park this summer for more **FREE** GetWild activities.

GetWild are 2hr long outdoor sessions without parents in local greenspaces focused on wildplay. The activities are a great way to explore local nature reserves and greenspaces in a safe and positive way. Through different activities young people will have the opportunity to learn about nature, the environment and wildskills. The activities are for ages 8-16 years only.



If your young person likes building dens, searching for minibeasts, or generally getting a bit mucky outside, then come with us on an adventure and GetWild with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

SPACE sessions will be advertised over the next few months on both the SPACE and Staffordshire Wildlife Trusts websites. In the meantime, why not check out the SPACE website and subscribe to receive the updates to for when the sessions are going live for bookings.

www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events

www.staffordshirespace.uk

GENERAL NEWS

Hilderstone Road Speed Campaign

This Campaign has been set up because of the concern of the speed that cars are travelling along the B5066, Hilderstone Road approaching Meir Heath.

We are advocating for a staggered speed limit of 40mph from the Black Lake Inn to the entrance of Meir Heath village. It currently stands at 60mph. This would encourage gradual deceleration before entering the village. The Speed Information Device at the entrance to the village has recorded a car doing 121mph which is terrifying!

We all deserve to feel safe in our community and free from the dangers of reckless driving and this change would be a significant step towards ensuring that safety.

We have the full support of Fulford Parish Council, MP Allison Gardner, who mentioned us by name in Parliament, Cllr Ian Parry and Cllr Alec Sandiford.

Please take the time to sign the petition, it is so important to have community involvement and pressure. You can sign online, using this link. If you already have a brown bin from Staffordshire County Council, you will already have a password to access the website. www.staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?id=1190

Alternatively, you can use this QR Code:

Many thanks and with your help, we can make this happen!



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STONE RAMBLERS



News from the Stone Ramblers and 'Walk of the Month'

Welcome to the second of our regular features from the Stone Ramblers.

Spring is here and haven't we had some glorious sunshine! It really is time to get out and enjoy this wonderful season. As usual, we have been busy here at the Stone Ramblers. We have a new website, lots of walking holidays planned and lots of new members too!

Easter saw us off for a week to HF Church Stretton, where we had a fabulous week enjoying the beautiful countryside in Shropshire. We've had a 'Bluebell Walk' and we have planned an evening walk in Swynnerton with supper at the Fitzherbert Arms. There's so much going on. **Please have a look at our website www.stoneramblers.org.uk for more information and come along for a couple of walks to see if the Ramblers are for you.** You will find lots of photographs of us 'in action' on our Facebook page 'Stone Ramblers'!

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone that came to visit us at the Stone Farmers' Market on 5th April. It was great to speak to you and I think that we have at least five new recruits!

Walk of the Month – Leadendale and Rough Close Common

This month's walk is fabulous on a summers evening, with magnificent views from Rough Close Common.

It's a 3 mile walk that should take about 2 hours. Quite hilly in places with 7 stiles. Refreshments available at the Swynnerton Arms public house.

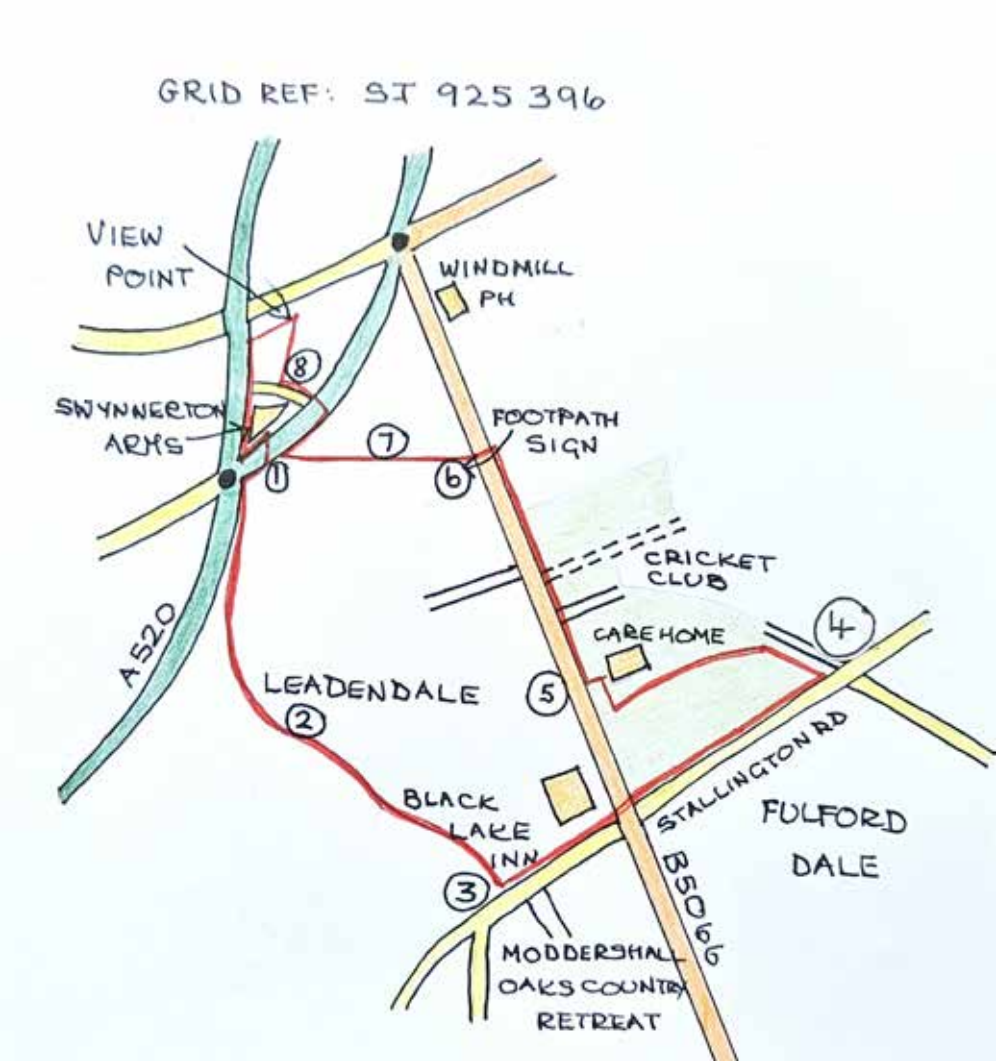
1. Turning right from the car park at the Swynnerton Arms (seek permission), go towards the mini roundabout and turn left along the A520. Passing a milestone, turn left into Leadendale Lane and follow the unsurfaced lane to the end and climb a stile located in the hedge.

2. After climbing the stile through the hedge, chose the path to the right, climbing the hill steadily and crossing 3 stiles in the waymarked direction to the tall trees and power lines on the horizon. On reaching the power line posts we follow the fence to the right.
In 200 yards cross the stile into a fenced compound and leave by the stile at the far end. Now keep left alongside the hedge to Moddershall Lane, opposite the entrance to Moddershall Oaks Country Spa Retreat.

3. Turning left at the Lane we proceed to the crossroads at the Black Lake Public House. Crossing the road into Stallington Road (take care) we walk down the lane for 400 yards to a T junction signposted Fulford.

4. Following the footpath sign to the left onto a tarmac track, we follow this for 100 yards until we find a finger post on

STONE RAMBLERS



STONE RAMBLERS

the left. Taking this track into a mature wood, with beech trees, we weave our way around the boundary hedge of Golden View Nursing Home on to the access road where we turn left on to the footpath towards Hilderstone Rd.

5. We now turn right on to the footpath of Hilderstone Road passing a milestone and follow the B5066, Hilderstone Rd for 600 yards, looking out for a fingerpost on the opposite side of the road leading down a grassy track.

6. Follow this pleasant track, through a kissing gate and then alongside the hedge to a pair of wicket gates.

7. Taking the right-hand gate, we must now walk diagonally up the hill to a kissing gate under the power cables. Passing through, we continue diagonally across the next field towards the end of a high hedge and another kissing gate. Go down the tarmac drive and cross the main A520 into Little Lane.

8. Proceeding along the lane and 15 yards past the fingerpost, turn onto a path on the right which immediately starts to climb up the open common. At the top, take a well-earned rest on the bench.

The views are magnificent, particularly on a summers evening, taking in the Shropshire and Welsh hills and the Wrekin. This is the highest point in the Potteries.

As you drop down, after approximately 100 yards, it is worth a careful deviation to the right to see the old quarry that was excavated in the 18th century by the Trentham Estate.

Continuing down the common, the footpath ends on the corner of Little Lane. Crossing over the main road, proceed to the left until you reach your starting point, the Swynnerton Arms.

Changes can occur to footpaths, so please let us know if you spot any alterations.

Enjoy, and take a flask of something to enjoy at the top!

Once again, Happy Walking!

Penny Meakin
Chair, Stone Ramblers



LOCAL POLICE

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

A safer Staffordshire

Your local officers

Stone Town

Oulton, Barlaston, Fulford, St Michael's & Stonefield and Walton



PCSO 25565
Megan Rogers



PCSO 8849
Rebecca Davies



PCSO 28240
Neil Moffatt

"Your local police and Borough Council working together to keep your community safe"

Visit us at www.staffordshire.police.uk

Non-Emergency 101

Emergency 999

staffordshirepolice

@staffspolice

VILLAGE HALLS

Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall (registered charity 506032)

Monday

0900-1500	Available to hire
1700-2000	Karate
	Contact Carol 07947771772

Tuesday

1000-1100	Yoga *Contact Jan 07765966911*
Afternoon	NHS Diabetes Class
1900-2030	Allsorts Choir *Contact Tracy 07585892598*

Wednesday

0900-1100	Slimming World
	Contact Nicola 07758517815
1300-1500	Dougie Mac
2000-2200	Stone Fencing Club
	Contact stonefencingclub.co.uk

Thursday

Afternoon	NHS Diabetes Class
1900-2000	Keep Fit
	Contact Jackie 07977466004

Friday & Sunday

0900-Midnight	Available to hire

Saturday

0900-2300	Available to hire

Available for public use
Fees £20 per hour

For booking enquiries contact the booking officer on 07864015187
or email mhrcvillagehall@gmail.com

www.meirheathandroughclosevillagehall.co.uk

VILLAGE HALLS

Fulford Village Hall (registered charity 522663)

LITTLE LEARNERS
(Fulford Pre-school) operates during school term time.
Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm.
Contact Amy Colclough on 07736575036

Monday
1130-1330 Knit & Natter *Contact Jan 07972 817309 (Alternate weeks)*
1800-1900 YOGA *Contact Noel Beckhill 07546 360095*

Tuesday
1000-1200 Art Club
Contact J Barnard 01782 393141
1900-2100 Patch work and Quilting
Contact Jane 01889505738
2000-2200 Medieval re-enactment
Contact Adrian 07760177776

Wednesday
1900-2000 Badminton
Contact Sheila 07981 549013

Thursday
1000-1200 Village Residents' Coffee Morning
Every 3rd Thursday
1630-2000 Bluebells Dance Classes
Contact Louise 07813184225
2000-2230 Indoor bowls
Contact Martin 01782 397629

Friday
1000-1200 Table Tennis
Contact Sheila 07981 549013

VILLAGE RESIDENTS Coffee Morning
3rd Thursday of each month, 1000 – 1200
Contact K Tooth 01782 397795 or J Conlon 01782 388784

For booking enquiries contact
bookings@fulfordvillagehall.org.uk

www.fulfordvillagehall.org.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

Dates for next Parish Council Meetings

Thursday 12th June 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Thursday 10th July 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

August 2025
No Meeting

Thursday 11th September 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Thursday 9th October 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Thursday 13th November 2025
Fulford Village Hall

Thursday 11th December 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Note: All meetings start at 7.15 pm with an opportunity for any local government elector from the parish to ask questions of the Parish Council relating to any parish issue. At the formal meeting, which follows at 7.30 pm, these matters will then be considered; the public may also attend but are not allowed to join the debate. Alternatively, write to the Clerk so that the matter can be raised at Fulford Council.

Stafford Borough Councillors
Cllr Mike Dodson- 01782 399855
Alec Sandiford- asandiford@staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Councillor
Cllr Sean Bagguley
sean.bagguley@staffordshire.gov.uk

Fulford Parish Council Office
01782 385187 (Wed and Thu Only)

Stafford Borough Council
General Enquiries 01785 619000
info@staffordbc.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council
01785 276207
contactus@staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire Highways Department
https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk

Non-emergency Police
101- In an emergency, where life is in danger or a crime is in progress, call **999.**

Medical Help
111

Electricity Issues
105

The Samaritans
24-hour confidential telephone helpline on 08457 90 90 90.

Staffordshire Mental Health Helpline
0808 800 2234

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

StreetScene
01785 619000

We hope that you have enjoyed our Parish newsletter.

If you have any suggestions on content then please contact our clerk via e-mail:
clerk@fulfordparishcouncil.gov.uk