

## **Correspondence from Organisations**


14/6/13

RECEIVED

12 JUN 2013

11 June 2013

AT/ELI

Chief Fire Officer   
Fire and Rescue Services HQ  
St Michaels Street  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Sir or Madam

**RE: CLOSURE OF BASCHURCH FIRE STATION**

On behalf of the College I would like to register my concern about proposals to close Baschurch Fire Station.

At our Walford Campus we have some 700 students and staff on site at any one time, with around 90 students and staff living on-site.

I am concerned that closure of our local fire station could increase the time taken to respond to an emergency, with potentially fatal consequences.

I would urge this issue to be given very careful scrutiny and would welcome further consultation before a firm decision is made.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Tyley  
Principal and Chief Executive

cc C Jones, D Candlin, P McGuinness, A Howls

E-mail: [enquiries@wnsc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@wnsc.ac.uk) • Website: [www.wnsc.ac.uk](http://www.wnsc.ac.uk)

Principal/Chief Executive: Andrew Tyley MBA, BA(Hons), CPFA

**Lynn Ince**

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**Subject:** FW: Closure of Baschurch Fire Station

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**From:** Anne Chalkley [mailto:parishclerkgnln@gmail.com]

**Sent:** 17 June 2013 14:43

**To:** Enquiries

**Subject:** Closure of Baschurch Fire Station

Good afternoon

Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council have received word that Baschurch Fire Station is to be closed. The Council would like to see the report from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services showing the reasons for closing Baschurch Fire Station. As you can imagine the Parish Councils and residents in the surrounding area are extremely concerned and worried that this Fire Station will be closed and they will be discussing this issue at their next meeting on the 11 July.

For the Council to discuss this in further, they will need the necessary detail showing the reasons behind the closure of this Fire Station.

We look forward to this report by return.

Many thanks.

Kind regards

*Anne*

**Anne Chalkley**

**Parish Clerk**

**Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council**

31 Cornwall Drive

Bayston Hill

Shrewsbury

SY3 0EP

Tel: 01743 872126

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# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Anne Howls  
The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch -  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com

18<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Mr. P.Raymond  
Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire,  
SY1 2HJ



Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Baschurch Parish Council I formally write to you regarding the possible closure of our fire station. Whilst we understand the enormous pressures that your Service is under from the Government in relation to the most severe cutbacks in spending, we ask that you give full and careful consideration to the options available to you in making savings within the county.

I feel sure that in writing to you as a fire officer whose main concern is the saving of life, that you must surely be aware that the closure of our station will not only immensely increase fire damage to property due to the increased travel time of fire appliances responding from distant fire stations to an incident, but the risk of loss of life will likewise increase, not only at fires, but also at road accidents and other special service calls where life is in danger.

As concern is growing amongst our population and, indeed, amongst adjoining parishes served by our fire station, we intend to take any course in order to retain our fire station. The Parish Council will, at some stage, hold a public meeting regarding this situation, and will accordingly invite yourself to attend, in order that you have a fair opportunity to explain the reasons behind any decision to close the fire station as part of these cutbacks.

Yours faithfully,



**Anne Howls**  
*(Clerk to the Parish Council)*



*Reply sent 21 June.  
1st 15-13th.*

**Packwood Haugh School**  
Ruyton XI Towns  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire SY4 1HX

Telephone 01939 260217  
Fax 01939 262077

www.packwood-haugh.co.uk  
enquiries@packwood-haugh.co.uk

20<sup>th</sup> June 2013,

Dear Sir,

### Baschurch Fire Station


I have not yet had the opportunity to make your acquaintance since I became the Headmaster of Packwood Haugh School, Ruyton XI Towns.

And I'm sorry that my first communication with you is concerning such a grave matter. It has come to my attention that the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service are considering the closure of our nearest fire station, Baschurch. I cannot bear to think how devastating the implications of this could be for the children (and staff) at my school. We have approximately 250 children at Packwood and many are boarders. In my first year as Head we have had reason to call on the Baschurch fire station team a few times to investigate incidents during the hours of night time. All, thank goodness, so far have been false alarms, but one day....

As a teacher I have benefited from a great deal of fire training from various fire services over the years and have always been made fully aware of the importance of a rapid response to a real life fire situation. If Baschurch were to close our nearest response teams would come from Oswestry or Shrewsbury and those many extra minutes it would take engines to arrive could cost many young lives.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to use your powers to stop any talk of the closure of Baschurch fire station. If I can be of any further assistance in achieving this goal please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

  
Clive Smith-Langridge  
Headmaster

# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



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The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com



31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

Mr. P. Raymond  
Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire,  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter which has been sent to the Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP today from Baschurch Parish Council concerning the possible closure of Baschurch Fire Station for your information.

Yours faithfully,

**Anne Howls**  
*(Clerk to the Parish Council)*

# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Anne Howls  
The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch -  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com

## COPY

31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson MP,  
House of Commons,  
London,  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr. Paterson,

Since the last letter sent to you by this Parish Council regarding the proposed closure of Baschurch fire station, we believe that you have been made more than aware of the deep concern of the residents of the Baschurch area with regard to this matter. This Parish Council believes that it is our duty to inform the residents and businesses within our area of the repercussions of such action, and we have, therefore, held meetings with our adjacent Parish Councils, whose areas will be affected by the proposed closure. All of these Councils share our amazement and anxiety that such a decision, if carried out, would drastically increase attendance times of fire appliances to this area, and would obviously increase fire damage to property and the greater possibility of death to the residents of this area.

As such, I have been asked to write formally to you, to invite you to attend a meeting, on a date of your choice, whereby you can have the opportunity to explain the reason and necessity of such a proposal, to our Parish Council and all other adjacent Councils. We fully understand the predicament of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, in relation to the enforced cut-backs placed upon it by the Government, and feel sure that you, as our elected Member, will fully understand our concerns and will no doubt assure your constituents that any such proposal will be vigorously opposed by yourself.

We look forward to an early and positive reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely

**Anne Howls**  
*(Clerk to the Parish Council)*



# MYDDLE AND BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Web site: [www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.myddleandbroughton-pc.gov.uk)

6, Primrose Drive,  
Sutton Park,  
Shrewsbury,  
SY3 7TP  
01743 236810

Email: [myddlebroughtonclerk@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:myddlebroughtonclerk@tiscali.co.uk)

August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2013

Mr. S. West,  
Chair, Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority,  
St. Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Mr. West,

## **Baschurch Fire Station.**

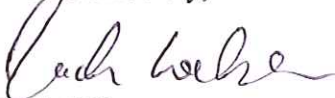
Parish Council Members have been provided with a copy of a letter dated 4 July 2013, which was sent to all Shropshire Councillors and which has generated considerable concern amongst Members of this Council.

Members are aware that at this stage the closure of Baschurch Fire Station is one of a number of possible options in the impact assessment exercise being carried out by the Fire and Rescue Authority. However Members are very concerned that this could well be a suggestion that becomes decision.

As committed Councillors, Members feel it is important for them to declare their total opposition to such a development which, if activated, would increase the attendance times of fire appliances attending incidents in the Parish and increase the risk to residents and property.

Over the consultation period Members will watch developments with interest and concern and ensure that the public they serve are made aware of the discussions that are taking place and the possible affect it will have on their community.

Yours sincerely,



Jack Wilson,

Parish Clerk

Copy to Chairman and Vice Chairman.



# BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk: Mrs Anne Howls  
The Newlands - Crosscut Lane - Stanwardine-in-the-Fields - Baschurch -  
Shropshire - SY4 2DD  
Telephone: 01939 260442 - email: ellesmerepc@supanet.com

5<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Dear Councillor,

I have been asked by all the members of Baschurch Parish Council, to write to you with regard to the proposed closure of Baschurch fire station.

As you are no doubt aware, from radio and press reports, the residents and Council members of Baschurch are deeply concerned about the effects which will result, if such action is approved. At present we, and a number of adjacent parishes, are served by the firefighters of our fire station. If the fire station is to close, then the whole of this rural population will rely on the services of fire stations at Shrewsbury or Oswestry. A look at the county map will make you understand the lengthy journey that fire appliances from either of these fire stations will have to make, in order to attend any emergency incident in this area.

The fulltime fire station at Shrewsbury is always busy with call-outs, and often requires the attendance of the Baschurch appliance to cover the town, as all its' appliances are committed to emergency incidents. If our fire station is closed, we will regularly have no fire cover from Shrewsbury, due to them attending incidents within their own area. The fire station at Oswestry is the busiest part time fire station in the county. Again, if the appliances from this station are committed to incidents, then we will not get any response from this fire station. There are also times when Oswestry are unable to provide crews for incidents. This will also negate attendance to our area. Another look at the county map will make you realize where the next nearest fire stations are, and how far they will have to travel to reach our area.

In any case, attendance times to parts of our area will more than double. This will mean that there will be more chance of deaths from fire, as well as deaths in road accidents and other emergency situations. Damage to property, both domestic and commercial, will escalate as fire will take a firm hold before the nearest fire appliances will arrive.

Before you make any decision regarding the above we would ask you to fully consider what impact your decision will have on our community, if you agree to the closure of our fire station.

Yours faithfully,

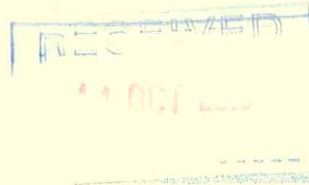
**Anne Howls**  
**(Clerk to the Parish Council)**





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr John Redmond,  
Shropshire Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service,  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
SY1 2HJ



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

I understand we are in throes of arranging a meeting for you to come to London and meet the Fire Minister in order to discuss the efficiency savings you have worked hard to secure in Shropshire as well as discussing future settlements.

In advance of that meeting however, I wanted to outline some of the concerns I have about the importance of fire stations that serve Shrewsbury owing to the unique makeup of our town in Shropshire. You are aware of the problem of rural sparsity that affects large areas of our county, with my constituency being a real example of where the widely spaced residential areas mean extended call out times.

To add to this, Shrewsbury town has over 600 listed historic buildings. These form a crucial attraction for the 2.6 million visitors that Shrewsbury hosts every year. Should they be damaged by fire, it would be of real detriment to this industry which is worth £137m a year to our economy. It is paramount therefore that should any of these buildings need to be attended by Shropshire Fire and Rescue, it is done so as swiftly as possible to limit fire and smoke damage.

I would be grateful there if you would confirm the above elements have been taken account of in relation to the proposed station closures, and I look forward to the meeting we are due to have with the Minister.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and especially for the hard work of you and all the Shropshire Fire and Rescue fire fighters.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Kawczynski MP  
Shrewsbury & Atcham

**Lynn Ince**

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**Subject:** FW: closure baschurch fire station

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**From:** Lynda McCormack [<mailto:clerkloppingtonpc@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 08, 2013 03:23 PM GMT Standard Time  
**To:** Chris Mellings  
**Cc:** Stuart West; David Minnery; Peter M Adams; Keith Barrow; Martin Bennett; Peter Cherrington; Nigel Hartin; John Hurst-Knight; Jean E Jones; Malcolm Price  
**Subject:** closure baschurch fire station

Dear Councillors,

Loppington Parish Council writes to express its concern regarding the closure of Baschurch Fire Station. Currently the nearest fire service to Loppington Village is Wem. Loppington is in a rural area within North Shropshire and adjoining Baschurch with dwellings in remote locations. Burlton to the south west of the Parish is adjacent to the Baschurch area and as such Baschurch Fire Station is the nearest to the south of Loppington Parish.

The closure of Baschurch Station together with a proposed reduction in service from Shrewsbury by removal of fire engines leaves a considerable gap in coverage of a large rural area in the North West of the County.

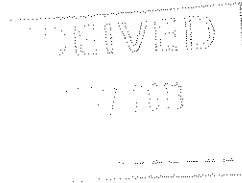
Loppington Parish Council strongly supports Baschurch in its endeavours to retain a station in the area Loppington PC is concerned that there will be an adverse impact and increased risk as a result of the cost cutting exercise and the subsequent requirement to reduce front line services in Shropshire.

Clerk to Loppington Parish Council

on behalf of Loppington PC

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\*\*\*\*\*

The Chief Fire Officer  
Fire and Rescue Service Shropshire  
St Michael's Street  
Shrewsbury



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

08/11/2014

Dear Mr Redman

I am writing to you on behalf of Bomere Heath Parish Council in order to defend the retention of Baschurch Fire Service. I attended the meeting early in October at Weston Lullingfields where you explained the situation regarding the extra cuts of £1 million which you have to make in the coming year. I appreciate that in all probability 4 out of the 22 retained Fire Services will be lost and that 1 of the five appliances on the Shrewsbury-Telford axis will also be cut. If, as you explained, each of these solutions would save approximately £500 000, it may well be that both solutions will be implemented. Both of these would have serious implications for Bomere Heath especially the loss of Baschurch Services, should this be considered for closure.

Geographically, Bomere Heath is in an interesting if not unique position inasmuch as it has Shrewsbury to the south and open country to the north serviced by the Baschurch Station. Battlefield and Albrighton in our parish are within comparatively easy access to Shrewsbury Fire Station, whilst Grafton, Walford Heath and Old Woods are much closer to Baschurch. Such hamlets would be completely lost without Baschurch Station, as Wem and Ellesmere would be too far away.

Bomere Heath itself is a growing village; it has been designated a hub of development in the SamDev programme; a development of some thirty houses to the south of the village is in the pipeline and the building of 12 affordable houses has just been passed, on appeal, to take place to the north of the village. Other houses are to be built in the outlying hamlets at Grafton, Mytton, Walford Heath and Little Woods – all of which are served by Baschurch Station and which are too far for the wholtime firefighters of Shrewsbury to reach in reasonable time particularly if they were to lose one machine at the same time.

In Bomere Heath we have a thriving school and a number of commercial and retail premises. There is an above-average percentage of social housing and we have three children's homes which receive children with educational and social difficulties. We also have a significant population of senior

citizens. All of these represent a marginally heightened risk factor and although our calls of Fire Services have so far been minimal, this does not mitigate future risk.

I was interested to learn that the Baschurch Service covers a stretch of the A5 trunk road where, as on the B5067 from Leaton to Baschurch which passes through our parish, there is always a high risk of accidents since cars regularly exceed the speed limits and, unlike motorways and dual carriageways, there is no separation or barrier between cars travelling in opposite directions.

I do not know whether the current status and condition of the different retained fire services will weigh in your decision but I must say I was impressed by the presence of such a young, dynamic and enthusiastic group of firefighters at Baschurch and they appear to be led by knowledgeable and experienced leaders. I do not know what the position is at Wem and Press, Whitchurch, Ellesmere and Oswestry but I do know it would be a serious loss that could not be easily reversed at a later date, should economic conditions ever improve.

You have a difficult decision to make and I wish you well in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Barker



# PREES PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk  
Mrs L Rumney

Tel No. 01939 236059  
Email [lesley.rumney@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.rumney@btinternet.com)

The Fields  
Quina Brook  
WEM  
Shropshire  
SY4 5RJ

Mr Redman  
Chief Fire Officer  
Shropshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Sent via email

25<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Mr. Redman

## **Re Proposed Fire Service Cuts**

On behalf of Prees Parish Council, thank you for attending the meeting at Prees on 8th November 2013. The Parish Council agreed that the meeting was of great benefit to it and hope that the Fire Service benefited in the same way. Following on from this the Parish Council is holding a public meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November to inform the local residents of the issues facing Prees Fire Station and the budget cuts that are being considered.

I have been asked by the Parish Council to request from you, information under the Freedom of Information Act, with regard to Prees fire station. You have stated that the annual cost of providing this fire station is in the region of £150,000. In order to gain a better understanding of how this amount is calculated please will you provide me with the following information:

1. The annual cost of building repairs and maintenance.
2. The annual cost of building services i.e. water, heating, lighting and electricity.
3. The annual cost of the fire appliance with regard to fuel, servicing and depreciation.
4. The annual cost of Retaining Fees to Prees personnel.
5. The annual cost of Drill Night and Training Fees for Prees personnel.
6. The annual cost of replacement equipment and uniform.
7. The additional cost of sending Fire Fighters to alternative venues for BA training in the event of the closure of Prees Fire Station.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Rumney  
Clerk to Prees Parish Council.

# WROCKWARDINE WOOD & TRENCH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:  
Cllr. Les Brayne,  
Tel: 01952 616363

Vice Chairman:  
Cllr. Karen Hanmer,  
Tel: 07904 421173

Clerk:  
Mrs. Y. Taylor,  
The Parish Council Centre,  
Church Road,  
Wrockwardine Wood,  
Telford.  
TF2 7AH  
Tel: 01952 61636

Email: [parishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:parishcouncil@btconnect.com)  
Web Site: [www.wwtpc.org.uk](http://www.wwtpc.org.uk)



12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service,  
Brigade Headquarters,  
St Michael's Street,  
Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire,  
SY1 2HJ

Dear Sirs,

The Parish Council strongly object to any cuts being made to the fire service budget because of the potential consequences to the residents of our area and indeed the whole of the County.

It is a serious concern of the Council that rural areas will be severely affected by the closure of fire stations which will undoubtedly cause an increase in response times and put people's lives at risk.

We object in the strongest possible terms to the removal of a full time engine from either Shrewsbury or Telford. Telford & Wrekin Council is promoting the growth of housing in accordance with Government Policy. If the current provision of 800 new homes per year is maintained to increase Telford's population from 174,000 to over 200,000 then funding will need to be increased rather than decreased.

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne Taylor,  
Clerk to the Parish Council