

Forton Parish Council

Welcome to Forton Parish Council's website where we endeavour to make our work in the community more transparent and accessible. The site is under continuous improvement so suggestions for changes will always be gratefully received.

Forton Parish Council comes under the auspices of Stafford Borough Council; it covers the settlements of Sutton, Forton and Meretown and lies right on the Western edge of Staffordshire and abuts the market town of Newport in Shropshire.

Sutton lies in the North East of the Parish, is divided by the busy A519. Until recently it offered the amenity of the Red Lion pub. This recently closed and has now been sold for re-development. But this is not the end – the 'Red Lion Support Group' has been formed



and it asked the Parish Council to ask Stafford Borough Council to put the Red Lion onto the Community Asset Register. The Parish Council has now submitted that application to allow time for a bid to be assembled by the Support Group.

A copy of the application can be found under the **Stafford Borough Council** section of this website and, more importantly, you can help by completing the Support Group's questionnaire that can be found on this website at

<http://www.forton-pc-staffs.org.uk/community/forton-parish-council-7974/red-lion-support-group/>

Stafford Borough has 8 weeks in which to respond to the application, when it will say whether it will add the Red Lion to the Community Asset Register. If it does not there is then a 4 weeks period during which an appeal can be submitted, that appeal to be heard before a judge. So support now is sought in readiness for a swift response, should an appeal be required.



Forton is in the Parish centre and also has the A519 dividing it. The Swan pub, recently bought and updated by Joules Brewery sits at the crossroads with Shay Lane where turning South brings one to the Parish Room (where council meetings are usually held) and then to All Saints Church.

Meretown lies South of Forton and the river Meese. Arguably

Meretown's most notable feature is the Skew Bridge complex, a listed monument, where the road crosses both the river and the canal, which is under restoration and which in turn runs in an aqueduct over the river.

A Conservation Area

In 1978 Forton and Meretown Conservation Area was designated, this has helped to protect the heritage of this unique area and Stafford Borough Council recently completed a review of the area to ensure it maintains its relevance. SBC consulted extensively during late 2015 and has now published a new appraisal document which features a lot more of the vernacular architecture and local history. It may be found under the ***Stafford Borough Council*** section of this website.