

**Statement on behalf of Barton Parish Council and Barton Village Hall Management Committee**

*Rats: There were reported instances of rat activity in the area of the Car Park some weeks ago but this was limited to a single dead rat found near the Village Hall on Crowberry Lane.*

*As a precautionary measure the Village Hall Management Committee engaged a Pest Control contractor to look at the Village Hall site and advise on any preventative measures, e.g. putting in bait boxes.*

*On investigation the pest control company reported there was no rat problem on the Village Hall Site and on their advice the Village Hall Management Committee installed protection to the store shed at the rear of the village hall to prevent any rats getting underneath that.*

*On Tuesday evening 3 October, a number of young rats were observed in the area and looked to be taking food from the East Staffs Borough Council litter bin near the entrance to the Village Hall.*

*On the Wednesday a.m. 4 October, the Village Hall Management Committee arranged for ESBC to remove the bin which they did straight away by lunchtime that day and the activity in that area ceased.*

*On the same day Barton Parish Council engaged a Pest Control Company to look at the car park area at lunchtime. A burrow was discovered at in the flowerbed by the wall and bait boxes were laid to deal with that at once. The contractor is visiting and re-charging these daily until the problem is eliminated.*

*Initial reports from the Contractor are very positive.*

6/10/23