



Rural Review

The Newsletter for the Wem Rural Community
Issue 2 April 2011

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RURAL WATCH

Rural Review

is produced by
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WELCOME...

to the second newsletter for the Wem Rural Community. It is designed, written, edited and produced by Wem Rural Parish Council to keep you informed about what your elected representatives are doing in the parish. In addition to the items in the newsletter, the Council has been making progress with other traffic issues, contributing to the Wem Evacuation Plan and holding the Annual Parish Meeting. A special thank you to all who attended or took part in the meeting. The Council is conscious that not all villages or hamlets in the parish have had a mention in the first 2 issues of Rural Review so, if you live in one of those areas, let us know what you'd like the Council to do for you!

This edition also includes a reminder about the Community Plan questionnaire which will be dropping onto your door mats soon. Having practised with the recent Census, the Parish Council hopes all households will take part in this important stage of the Plan.

Richard Powell
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

THINK 30



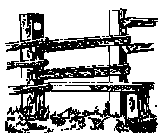
Wheelie Bins join campaign to slow speeding drivers

Wheelie bins in the Parish have become the latest tool to remind drivers to stick to the speed limit.

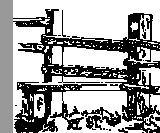
Residents are concerned about vehicles driving above the 30mph speed limit in Pepper Street and Northwood. Using an idea first used by police in Staffordshire, the Parish Council recently handed out large 30mph weatherproof stickers to be

stuck onto Pepper Street residents' green and black wheelie bins. Councillors hope that this will make a big visual impact on bin days to give a nudge to drivers to pay closer attention to their speedometers!

The stickers were provided by Shropshire Council and Parish Councillors will soon be visiting other 30mph speed limit areas!



New Right of Way in Tilley Village



In 2010 Wem Rural Parish Council made a request to Shropshire Council to claim a footpath in Tilley Village as a public Right of Way to be added to the Definitive Map of Shropshire. Local people have used this path for more than 40 years as a circular route but part of it had never been formally claimed as a Right of Way. Councillors worked with residents to fill in User Evidence

forms provided by the Countryside Access Team and finally on 17th February 2011 Shropshire Council issued a Notice of Modification Order to add the footpath.

A copy of the Order and a Map describing the route can be found on the Parish Council's website at www.wemrural.org.uk.

CAR PARKING CHARGES

Despite fierce local opposition Shropshire Council's new parking strategy was approved on 22 December. Martin Taylor-Smith, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for Transport and IT, said: "Through extensive consultation we have shaped this strategy to reflect the views of local people and businesses." Although not all of Wem Town and Wem Rural residents' opinions have been taken on board, we have gained a small concession in that the first hour in the High Street/Leek Street car park will be free.

From April 2011, car park charges are:
High Street/Leek Street - first hour free, 10p for up to 2 hours and £1.80 for up to 10 hours.
Mill Street - 10p for up to 2 hours and £1.80 for up to 10 hours. There is no free period.

Charges will apply everyday, including bank and public holidays between the hours of 8am - 6pm. There is no free parking for Blue Badge holders.

Notice board for Tilley

One of the duties of the Parish Council is to publish legal notices including the meeting agendas in a public place so that parishioners have the chance to see what will be discussed. At the moment the Parish Council uses the notice boards at Edstaston Village Hall, Quina Brook, inside Coton Oaks, Newtown School, Edinburgh House Wemand the telegraph pole outside the Raven at Tilley (technically illegally).

The Parish Council has now purchased a second hand notice board and are looking for suggestions for a good home for it in Tilley. The notice board has two lockable doors. One side will be for Parish Council use but the other could be for the use of the community. If you have an idea for a position for the notice board, please phone Parish Clerk Carole Warner on 01948 710672.

Annual Parish Meeting

An informative update on Parish Matters

This year's Annual Parish Meeting was held two months earlier than normal on Tuesday 15 March. This was primarily to give the Parish Plan Steering Group the opportunity to give an update on their work and explain the next stage: the completion of a questionnaire by residents (see opposite).

The Chair of the Parish Council, Richard Powell, opened the meeting with his report on the Parish Council. Because this has been a busy year Richard had many topics to report on. The Council has campaigned on behalf of residents on local issues, there have been changes in personnel both with the Clerk and Councillors and, more recently, collaboration on joint issues with Wem Town

Council. Overall, the Council believes it now has the structure in place to assist and represent the Parish more effectively.

The meeting included short presentations from Shropshire Councillors Pauline Dee and Chris Mellings who outlined the work of the Local Joint Committee and a Shropshire Councillor. The Parish Council were pleased that Community Police Officers Lesley Mitchell and Antony Jones also attended. Their presentation centred on the work carried out in the community and gave examples of how positive assistance can change not just communities but the lives of individuals.

The meeting was attended by more the 30 residents and concluded with an informal question and answer session. The general feeling was that it had been a worthwhile meeting with interesting and informative speakers on matters relevant to all.

COMMUNITY PLAN

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THIS IS NOT AN ADVERT

Back in June 2010, Wem Rural Parish Council and a number of local parishioners started work on the creation of a Parish Plan.

Once completed the Parish Plan will be a 'living' document which will reflect the wishes, desires and aspirations of all in our Parish. A document which will be used by the Parish Council and Shropshire Council to shape the development of our community over the next 5-10 years.



THIS DOCUMENT IS OUR VOICE

It is documented evidence of how **we** want our community to grow and mature. We intend to offer every single parishioner the opportunity to share their thoughts on a wide range of subjects relating to our community. To achieve this, in May we will be delivering a questionnaire to every household, giving every parishioner the chance to provide their views.

This is where your Parish needs you. Please take the time (a maximum 25 minutes) to complete the questionnaire either on-line or in paper form.

Thank you.

 Wem Rural Community Plan
www.wemrural.org

GET INVOLVED WITH 'RURAL WATCH'

Rural communities are proving how effective it is to "get involved" by signing up to help tackle crime in their villages and hamlets. Rural Watch, an information sharing and advice scheme, which was set up in Shropshire last year now has more than 570 members and continues to go from strength to strength.

Although we live in a relatively low crime area, we all know someone who has been victim of crime such as theft. Rural Watch is a two way information sharing scheme where Police inform members of any potential threats quickly and easily.

Just as importantly, members are able to share information about such matters as suspicious persons or vehicles with the Police and other members. Messages are sent via email, voice or text within hours of an incident taking place which means warnings and appeals for information can quickly be issued to relevant people.

For more information on Rural Watch contact the Parish Clerk or visit www.safer-shropshire.org

BUDGET 2011/2012

At its meeting on Tuesday 4 January the Parish Council agreed its Budget for the year 2011/12. Although the day to day functions of the Parish Council continue to grow, the Parish Council agreed to ensure communication with residents and assistance with the Parish Plan were provided for. The Precept was set at £12,193 which involved no increase to local tax payers.

Chairman Richard Powell said that Wem Rural Parish Council appreciated the present economic difficulties and had worked hard to achieve this zero percentage rise without cutting back on areas which would help the community.



Wem Rural Parish Council

www.wemrural.org.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

There are 12 Councillors representing the 3 wards.

EDSTASTON

Owen Darlington	01948 841306	The Gate House, Coton, Whitchurch SY13 3LN
Angela Neame	01939 235492	Spode Cottage, Quina Brook, Wem SY4 5RJ
Laura McMahon	01939 236716	Home Farmhouse, Edstaston SY4 5RF
Bryan Morgan	01948 880305	Home Farm, New Road, Coton SY13 3LR
Jon Murgatroyd	01939 234384	Grange Farm, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5QY

NEWTOWN

Mark Lockett	01948 710218	The Lawns, Northwood, Wem SY4 5NP
Richard Powell	01939 233289	Horton Hall Farm, Horton, Wem SY4 5ND

WEM

Peter Broomhall	01939 232573	3 Swains Close, Wem SY4 5NZ
Don Edwards	01939 233054	Sherfield, Ellesmere Road, Wem SY4 5TU
Bev Horsley	01939 232956	Ryebank Farmhouse, near Wem SY4 5RA
Len Staines	01939 234415	The Hawthorns, Barkers Green, Wem SY4 5JW
Tim Wilton-Morgan	01939 235703	Palms Hill House, Palms Hill, Wem SY4 5PQ

Councillors invite members of their ward to contact them to discuss any issues or matters of concern.

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You can also contact the Parish Clerk, Carole Warner, Orchard Cottage, Rowe Lane, Welshampton, SY12 0QB 01948 710672 or email wemruralpc@hotmail.co.uk

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday
3 May 2011

Tuesday
7 June 2011

Tuesday
5 July 2011

Tuesday
2 August 2011

Tuesday
6 September 2011

M E E T I N G S

Wem Rural Parish Council meetings are held at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Council Chamber, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem.

The Parish Council also holds Planning Meetings to consider planning applications when the time stipulated for response to Shropshire Council (21 days) does not allow them to be held over to the monthly Council meeting.

Agendas for all meetings are available on the website and are placed on notice boards around the Parish at least 3 days before the meeting. A copy can also be found in reception at Edinburgh House, Wem.

Members of the community are welcome to attend all meetings and there is time set by at the start to allow you to address the Council.

This newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 for further details.



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