



# Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council  
Issue 8 May 2013

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## Rural Review

is produced by  
Wem Rural Parish Council  
Orchard Cottage  
Rowe Lane  
Welshampton  
SY12 0QB

For further  
information  
please contact  
Carole Warner on  
01948 710672  
email:  
wemruralpc@hotmail.co.uk  
www.wemrural.org.uk

## WELCOME...

to the eighth newsletter for the Wem Rural Community.

On 14th May at the first meeting of this new parish council year I was re-elected as Chair of Wem Rural Parish Council. I would like to thank retiring parish councillors for their hard work and dedication, in some cases for many years. Thanks also to the 5 who have been elected for a further 4 years...this will be a challenging time with decisions to be made for the benefit of the whole Wem Rural Community. The parish council's first job is to fill the remaining 7 vacancies by co-option (see below)

If being a Parish Councillor is not for you, there are many other ways you can help your community. Read on to find how you could become a Community Champion, volunteer with Wem Rural Responders or get involved in progressing the Community Plan.

Peter Broomhall, Chair Wem Rural Parish Council



## ARE YOU WILLING TO BE CO-OPTED AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

In the recent local council elections on 2 May 2013 no poll was held in Wem Rural Parish because only 5 nominations were received for the 12 vacant Parish Councillor positions. Tim Wilton-Morgan, Len Staines and Peter Broomhall for Wem Ward and Jon Murgatroyd and Bev Horsley for Edstaston Ward were elected unopposed. No nominations were received for Newtown Ward.

The Parish Council needs to fill the remaining 7 vacancies by co-option (2 in Newtown Ward, 2 in Wem Ward and 3 in Edstaston Ward). A number of residents have already shown interest but it is not too late for **YOU** to get involved. Please contact Carole Warner (Parish Clerk) wemruralpc@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01948710672 for further information.

You are also welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting (normally held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem) to find out about current issues and projects.

# COMMUNITY PLAN

The draft copy of the Community Plan for Wem Rural Parish is nearing completion and will be available for review by the local community on 1st July 2013. The draft document will be available to download from [www.wemrural.org](http://www.wemrural.org) (or the parish council website [www.wemrural.org.uk](http://www.wemrural.org.uk)). In addition paper copies will be available to view at Edinburgh House and Wem Library or can be provided by contacting Jon Murgatroyd on 01939 234384.

Any feedback or comments you have on the draft document is welcome. Comments can be supplied on-line at [www.wemrural.org](http://www.wemrural.org) or in writing to Jon Murgatroyd, Grange Farm, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5QY. The deadline for providing any feedback is the 1st August 2013. Feedback will be reviewed and the final Community Plan document made available during Autumn 2013.

## SOULTON ROAD Community-led Housing Project UPDATE

In the last edition of Rural Review we outlined Shropshire Council's new initiative, Community-Led Housing under which Severnside Housing is proposing a housing development on Soulton Road, Wem. The Parish Council had agreed to work with Severnside to find out whether there is a need for this type of development in our Parish.

Since then, the proposal has been discussed at a Public Meeting, Annual Parish Meeting and the monthly Parish Council meetings. A Steering Group (made up of Parish Councillors, one Shropshire Councillor, Shropshire Council Housing Enabling Officer, Severnside Housing Business Development Manager and 2 local residents) has been meeting regularly to review

## Flooding in Barkers Green

There is a history of flooding of the lanes and gardens in Barkers Green but a recent incident of flooding of homes caused a great deal of concern among residents.

Following an approach to the parish council, meetings were arranged between local residents and Shropshire Council's Flood and Water Management Team. Investigations are underway and in the meantime Shropshire Council has offered a residential property flood protection assessment to properties affected by the flooding.



Local Community Voluntary Group

### WemRuralResponders

aims to save lives in the Wem Rural area using

### Automated External Defibrillators

**If you would like to join the group and receive FREE lifesaving first aid training please contact Len Staines on 01939 234415.**

issues highlighted at the meetings and seek answers from departments within Shropshire Council and other agencies. Further details and minutes of the steering group meetings can be found on the parish council website under "Soulton Road Community-Led Housing Project".

The Steering Group also organised an information event at Wem Cricket Club for local residents to the site, both of Wem Rural and Wem Town, to view Severnside Housing's proposals.

Severnside Housing has now submitted a planning application for 23 houses on the site to the West of Ash Grove and the formal planning process will now take its course. Full details of the application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Public Access planning system or in person at Edinburgh House Wem (appointments are recommended). A link to the Shropshire Council's planning system has been placed on the Parish Council's website.

The Parish Council will be consulted for its opinion on the application as part of the planning process and Parish residents are also able to submit comments. A decision on the application is expected to be made by Shropshire Council by the end of July.



# Community Champions



Now that Spring has finally arrived it may be easy to forget the prolonged snow, ice, extreme cold and flooding of this past winter.

Shropshire Council (together with other agencies such as Shropshire Rural Community Council, NHS, Age UK, Keep Shropshire Warm, the Department of Health and Mears) is encouraging local residents to become **Community Champions** who will act as a first point of contact to help out older and vulnerable people in their community. This may involve monitoring weather reports (with advance warning

given by Shropshire Council of severe conditions) and ensuring that the person you are concerned about has enough food, oil, topped-up electricity card, warm clothes, has remembered to collect prescriptions, etc. to get through a prolonged period of adverse weather. Practical help like snow-clearing and regular checks by phone or in person may also be needed.

If you are interested in helping with this valuable community service please contact the Parish Clerk.

The grand finale to the  
Queen's Diamond Jubilee year

## CORONATION VARIETY NIGHT

**Wem Town Hall**  
**Saturday 1 June from 7—11pm**  
**Theme**

**"The Coronation Decades"**  
(50s dress and black tie - optional)  
**with live music and dance acts**  
**Compere Tim Bamford**

**Tickets £7.50**  
(includes coronation cake and tea/coffee)  
from Wem Town Hall 01939 238279

**Celebrate with the Wem Community**

## CEILIDH with the Tern Valley Tinkers

**Sunday 7th July 5 - 9pm**  
**Bridge Farm, Quina Brook SY4 5RG**  
(courtesy of Neale Sadler and family)

**£10 (£4 under 12s)**  
(includes hot filled baps and salads)  
**BAR**

Tickets from Bev Horsley 01939 232956

In aid of Edstaston Village Hall  
and St Mary's Church Edstaston

### Wem Business Forum

#### Explore the benefits of **SOCIAL MEDIA** in Business Marketing

Calling business people in Wem and Wem Rural:  
You are invited to a **FREE** interactive session aimed at  
discovering the pros and cons of the three biggest  
social media platforms -

Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

**BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP TO FOLLOW  
STEP-BY-STEP DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**6pm - 8pm (approx) Monday 3 June**  
**at the Old Rectory, Wem**

**No need to book**

### NEWTOWN COMMUNITY AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION'S **100 CLUB**

Please join the 100 CLUB, help raise much-needed funds  
for the Newtown Park and Play Community Project....and  
stand a good chance of winning a cash prize!!

Applications forms available at the Newtown School office.

## RURAL HEALTH SURVEY

People living in rural areas of Shropshire are being asked for  
their views by health professionals, Shropshire Council and  
organisations with an interest in rural issues, such as the  
Country and Land Owners Association.

Responses will be used to help build an understanding of what  
can be done to improve people's quality of life or to mitigate  
against the impact of any issues highlighted.

You can take part online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/ShropshireRuralHealth](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ShropshireRuralHealth) or telephone 01743 252594 for a paper  
copy of the survey. (Closing date 31 July 2013).

# Wem Rural Parish Council

[www.wemrural.org.uk](http://www.wemrural.org.uk)

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

### EDSTASTON

vacancy

vacancy

Jon Murgatroyd 01939 234384 Grange Farm, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5QY

Bev Horsley 01939 232956 Ryebank Farmhouse, near Wem SY4 5RA

vacancy

### NEWTOWN

vacancy

vacancy

### WEM

Peter Broomhall 01939 232573 3 Swains Close, Wem SY4 5NZ

vacancy

vacancy

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.

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

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday  
4 June 2013

Tuesday  
2 July 2013

Tuesday  
6 August 2013

Tuesday  
3 September 2013

Tuesday  
1 October 2013

## M E E T I N G S

Wem Rural Parish Council meetings are held at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Council Chamber, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem. Occasionally there may be a guest speaker in which case the meeting will start at an earlier time to allow time before public statements at 7pm.

The Parish Council occasionally 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.

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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