



# Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council  
Issue 3 September 2011

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## Rural Review

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## WELCOME...

to the third newsletter for the Wem Rural Community. As the Parish Council start the second half of its year it can look back on quite a few successes, some of which you can read about inside. However there are still areas where the Council continues to strive on behalf of the community, one example being planning compliance and enforcement issues where the Council is committed to exploring better ways of working with the responsible authority, Shropshire Council. The second half of the year will no doubt bring a mixture of expected business, a few surprises and, importantly, the fruition of the Community Plan. The Community Plan Steering Group continues to put in sterling work and, on behalf of the Parish Council, thank you to all involved for your commitment.

Please remember, this and previous newsletters can be found on our website at [www.wemrural.co.uk](http://www.wemrural.co.uk).

**Richard Powell**  
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

## COMMUNITY PLAN

The creation of the Wem Rural Parish Community Plan is now well underway!

At the end of May a dedicated group of local volunteers hand-delivered a Questionnaire to every household in the Parish. This was designed to find out what YOU think about your area. 258 completed questionnaires have been returned (both online and paper copies) from approximately 37% of households. Thanks to all who filled in and returned these.

Children aged 16 and under were also involved through an online version of the questionnaire which they filled in at local schools.

The Steering Group is now analysing the data provided and will compile a report to be shared with the Parish. The report will set out a future plan for our Parish as YOU would like it to be. Once the Community Plan is adopted it must be referred to by all levels of Local Government including Shropshire Council and Wem Rural Parish Council and so will influence all future policy-making in our area.

The Steering Group would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped distribute the Parish Plan Questionnaires. Thanks also go to those organisations who provided grant funding for this Community Plan. These are The Community Council of Shropshire, Wem Rural Parish Council and The Midlands Co-operative Community Fund.

Thanks also go to both Bentley Motors ([www.bentleymotors.com](http://www.bentleymotors.com)) and Park Hall Farm ([www.parkhallfarm.co.uk](http://www.parkhallfarm.co.uk)) for donating such generous prizes. The winners have now been drawn and are:

1st prize Craig Murphy from Quina Brook  
3rd prize Resident of Soulton Road Wem

2nd prize Chris Evans from Paddol Green  
4th prize Resident of Edstaston

**To follow progress on the creation of the Parish Plan please refer to our dedicated website at [www.wemrural.org](http://www.wemrural.org).**



# VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS



Vehicle activated signs (or VAS) are digital road signs that display a message when they are approached by a vehicle exceeding the speed limit or going too fast for the type of road.

Research shows that VAS are effective in focusing a driver's attention back to the required speed.

Residents of Northwood have long been concerned about traffic exceeding the 30mph speed limit through the village. As a result of the Parish Council's negotiations with Shropshire

Council's Highways Department a VAS, hopefully by the time you read this, will have been installed in Northwood and will be active every two weeks out of six. Together with the 30mph wheelie bin signs distributed in Northwood Councillors hope this will make drivers more aware of their speed!

Councillors have also been involved in talks about speeding issues in Quina Brook and are delighted that a VAS, funded 100% by Shropshire Council, has also been installed on the B5476 at Quina Brook in the recently created 40mph zone.

## Community Tree Scheme



Schools, environmental and community groups, Parish and Town Councils, farmers and landowners are invited to apply for native trees and shrubs free of charge under Shropshire Council's Community Tree Scheme.

Trees are usually supplied as small bare-rooted transplants, between 40 and 90cm tall. Rabbit spirals and canes will also be included to protect the trees. Although it is a 'tree' scheme, very short lengths of native countryside hedging may be supplied (for 'gapping up' or linking hedges or other habitats), but applications must include at least one hedgerow tree.

Applications are invited from anywhere in the Shropshire Council area. As long as the planting will have some public benefit your scheme will be considered. Applications will be taken from now until Friday 2 December 2011. Successful applicants will be notified in early January with an intended tree collection date of Saturday 4th February 2012.

You must be able to collect your trees from one of a number of 'depots' across the County, on a specified collection date. Full details will be available nearer the time.

Full details and an application form are available on the Shropshire Council website [www.shropshire.gov.uk/environment.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/environment.nsf) or contact the your local tree warden Eirene Crainey on 01948 710218

## Working with Shropshire Council for the benefit of our Parish

### PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT

The planning process can be complex and sometimes confusing. In particular, issues of enforcement are often emotive and hard to understand. Enforcement action can result if someone carries out development without planning permission, or not in accordance with approved plans—this is considered to be a 'breach of planning control'. Carrying out unauthorised works to a Listed Building or to display an advertisement is a criminal offence. However, other work carried out without planning permission is not a criminal offence, but it does expose the owner of the land to possible Enforcement Action.

In a bid to understand more about Planning and particularly Enforcement issues, Parish Councillors arranged to meet informally with Senior Management of Shropshire Council's Development Management Team to discuss these subjects and related issues that are often raised by residents. This has resulted in a commitment to improved communication and a closer working relationship between the two councils.

Shropshire Council's planning policies can be found at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf). You can also track planning applications through the Online Planning Register at the same website address.

Further information on the Parish Council's role as a consultee in the planning process can be found under PLANNING on our website [www.wemrural.org.uk](http://www.wemrural.org.uk).

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## PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

Following our appeal in the last newsletter, Mr John Hall volunteered his wall at Tilley Hall Farm (ideally situated opposite the Tilley Raven!) for the new Tilley Notice Board. As the photograph shows it is being used by both the Parish Council and the local community. Pictured are Mr John Hall and Mrs Wyllis Turner both of Tilley Village.

The Council is now looking for local handy people to help with the construction of notice boards for three other locations:

Mr Tony Haller of Coton Oaks Coffee and Farm Shop has

volunteered the frontage of his establishment for a notice board for the Coton community, a Horton resident has offered a potential location and Councillor Len Staines has volunteered a space on his property facing the road in Barker's Green for a third notice board.

Do you feel YOUR area needs a community notice board? Please contact the Parish Council who will do their best to help.

If you have the skills and time to help with constructing notice boards the Parish Council would be delighted to hear from you.

## Does Your Community Group Need Financial Help?

Each year as part of the Parish Council Budget process the Council allocates a small amount of funds to assist local community groups.

This year, in addition to helping with the maintenance of Churchyards and Whitchurch Road Wem Cemetery, the Council has approved a grant to Newtown Community Recreation Association. There is still a small amount of funds available so if your Group needs funds for a specific project please contact the Clerk for a Grant Pack. This includes a standard application form and procedure to ensure all groups are assessed equally.

## Oaklands Farm Eggs

Oaklands Farm Eggs Ltd at Edstaston is one of the largest businesses in our Parish.

Local residents will have noticed that there has been considerable activity at the site during 2011 with the erection of replacement chicken sheds necessary to ensure the business complies with new EU Animal Welfare Legislation which comes into effect in January 2012. In addition to the expected increase in noise from the site whilst the building work is completed the movement of materials has increased traffic volumes through the village.

In response to a number of concerns brought to the Parish Council by residents, councillors have met with senior management of Oaklands Farm Eggs to resolve some of the issues. The business has advised the Parish Council that the "vast majority of this work will be completed by the end of September 2011 and at this point traffic volumes should reduce. Having invested significantly in the site at Edstaston, Oaklands Farm Eggs expect no further expansion in the Parish.

To help further reduce traffic movements the business is accelerating its 'Vehicle Movement Strategy' to reduce the number of movements. It is expected that this strategy will be completed over the next 18 months with all movements being made using HGVs which have a higher load capacity than the Tractor / Trailer units currently being used". (Residents may have noticed that some of the movements have already been converted to HGVs.)

Oaklands Farm Eggs Ltd are happy to listen to any issues that local parishioners have either now or in the future. To this end they have provided a direct line to their head office which can be reached on 01952 770322.

The council hope that regular meetings with Oaklands Farm Eggs Ltd and local parishioners will take place as necessary to continue working through both parties concerns. If you would like to discuss this or any other issue please contact any of your local parish councillors whose contact details can be found in this newsletter or our website at [www.wemrural.org.uk](http://www.wemrural.org.uk).



# Wem Rural Parish Council

[www.wemrural.org.uk](http://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](mailto:wemruralpc@hotmail.co.uk)

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday  
4 October 2011

Tuesday  
1 November 2011

Tuesday  
6 December 2011

Tuesday  
3 January 2012

Tuesday  
7 February 2012

## 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. Occasionally there may be a guest speaker in which case the meeting will start at the earlier time of 7.15pm to allow time before public statements at 7.30pm.

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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