



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 15 November 2015

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Rural Review

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WELCOME...

to this edition of the Rural Review, which is published a little later than normal. We wanted to include the opening of Round Meadow and the latest on the Parish Council's work trying to improve Broadband in the Parish. Details below and inside.

Also inside, we are asking for volunteers to come forward to boost the existing teams for the local Automated External Defibrillators (AED). The Co-op has now installed their own AED at the store so the community is well served with 3 AEDs. Lets make sure these life saving machines are fully supported .

We also congratulate Wem Town Hall on the good work they are carrying out with the 'Wem into Work' project. Well done to all involved!

Tim Wilton Morgan, Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

ROUND MEADOW Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



In early November Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings officially opened Severnside Housing's new homes at Round Meadow. Over 40 guests attended the event including members of the local community, Parish and Town Councillors, contractors and Severnside staff.

Cllr Len Staines, Vice-Chair of Wem Rural Parish Council said "Wem Rural Parish Council is delighted to be involved in the development. The standard of design, construction and energy efficiency has produced lovely homes for its occupants."



During the event Wem Cricket Club was presented with a special commemorative bench as a thank you for their support and help during the construction of the new homes. They provided car parking when necessary and a venue for local residents to meet.



Walking for Health



Meet at Edinburgh House 10am every Monday

Enjoy a chat and a gentle 30 - 60 minute walk

Walks are FREE

On Monday mornings at 10am a small group of people meet at Edinburgh House, Wem, and go for a walk. They walk for about an hour before going to a local café for a drink afterwards. These people do not see themselves as walkers, but as someone who wants to get out of the house for an hour or two, meet up with other people and have a chat. These walks are for those who know they need to get out and do a bit more exercise but have not yet done anything about it. By coming on a Monday they are taking the first step to being more active without having to wear specialist clothing, and getting the

chance to talk to other people. The walks are mostly on the flat and led at a pace that suits you.

So if this sounds like something you might enjoy why don't you come and join them? No need to book, just come along 5-10 minutes before the start of your first walk. Wear comfortable flat shoes with a good grip.

To find out more please contact Liz Evans on 01743 255068 or email Liz.Evans@Shropshire.gov.uk. More information can be found at www.walkingforhealth.org.uk

FUTURE development

Included with the June edition of the Rural Review was the consultation document asking for views on future development in the Parish. Only 15 responses were received but these covered a wide range of views.

The Parish Council is committed to holding a Parish Meeting where the issues consulted on will be discussed but it will be combined with the issues surrounding the delivery of Broadband (article on page 4), a topic that has received substantially more feedback from residents.

AN UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE COUNTY

At the time of going to print, Shropshire Council has received the final report from the Planning Inspector on the Site Allocation and Management of Development Supplementary Planning Document (SAMDev). It is planned that the Policy will be adopted by Shropshire

Council at its December meeting. Once adopted and with Shropshire Council confirming it has a 5 year land supply, Shropshire Council hopes the number of speculative applications for new housing received over the last couple of years will subside.

Wem Rural Parish is classed as 'Countryside' under Planning Policies which means no new open market housing should take place. However, the Parish has seen applications for open market development submitted to Shropshire Council. These have been assessed by the Parish Council through the formal consultation process on their merits against Planning Policies and local benefits. To date, Shropshire Council has refused these applications, although one has subsequently been approved through the appeal process.



COUNCIL NEWS

NEW COUNCILLOR FOR NEWTOWN WARD

The Parish Council extends a very warm welcome to Geoff Glover. Geoff put himself forward for election and was successful in a non-contested election.

Newtown Ward has 2 Councillors, Geoff and Trevor Hayward. Residents of the Ward are welcome to contact them on local issues (see back page for contact details)

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

With the recent resignation of Bev Horsley there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor for the Edstaston Ward of the parish. As this vacancy has arisen between the ordinary round of elections (normally every 4 years) it is classed as a Casual Vacancy.

Notices will be placed on notice boards around the Parish and on the Wem Rural website advertising the vacancy from 1 December 2015 for 14 days (excluding weekends and bank holidays).

During this period of 14 days, ten electors from within Edstaston Ward can call for an election to be held. To do this they need to make their request in writing to Shropshire Council.

If an election is not requested the Parish Council will be notified to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor or would like further information on the election/co-option processes please contact the Parish Clerk or alternatively, Shropshire Council's Elections Office on 0345 678 9015.

NEW BUS SHELTER AT NEWTOWN

It has been a long haul but during late summer the Bus Shelter was finally erected!

Back in August 2013, local residents, Parish Councillors and representatives from Shropshire Council met in Newtown to agree the location and design of the shelter. The process was delayed due to having to combine the erection with highways works in the location carried out by Shropshire Council. Children waiting for the school bus can now do so without getting wet!

QUICK UPDATES

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH - Volunteers are still needed. If you live in Edstaston Ward and you can spare a couple of hours on a monthly basis please contact the Clerk.

RIGHTS OF WAY - In the Spring the Parish Council will be launching a Mapping Project which will include recording issues on footpaths and bridleways. If you are interested in helping please contact the Clerk.

The Queen's 90th birthday

A public meeting is being held on Tuesday 8 December at 7pm in The Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem to discuss how residents of Wem Parish and Wem Town would like to celebrate this occasion.

If you would like to assist in making this a special event please come along and show your support.

If you are unable to attend but are interested please contact the Clerk.

BROADBAND in the parish



In the previous Rural Review in June we asked for your comments on the broadband service that is available in the Parish. To date we have had over 60 responses. Unsurprisingly all responses so far have highlighted the poor band width available in the parish and the subsequent impact this is having on parishioners' lives.

As a result of the responses the Parish Council has investigated a number of alternative options to support a significant improvement in the bandwidth available across the parish. We have concluded that a Wi-Fi solution is not viable for the parish. However we are currently running a trial of the delivery of broadband via satellite. The trial started early November 2015 and we hope to have some meaningful results early February 2016.

In the meantime we are still keen to get more feedback on the current broadband service and so if you have not yet had time to register your comments please take the time to do so at www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/broadband-speed/. It would be very useful to establish the current broadband speeds across the parish so if you are able to provide this information at the same time it would be very useful.

Finally if we do have any parishioners with commercial and/or technical broadband skills who would be able to share their knowledge with the parish council to help us with this project please make contact with Carole Warner (Parish Clerk) on 01948 710672.

ROADWORKS: A Review

We all have been affected by recent road works, both in Wem Rural and neighbouring parishes, and work continues on the B5063 north of our parish. Although many people's journeys to work, school or shopping have been more difficult due to the required diversions (and unofficial ones), the results have been worthwhile as the standard of road surfaces appear to be of good quality.

One project however, did cause concern to the Parish Council. The works carried out at Ryebank and Highfields included the removal of the grassed island and a change of road layout at the Highfields junction. The Parish Council

was not aware of these changes until they had been completed. At the request of the Parish Council, Traffic Engineers from Shropshire Council have reviewed the layout and consider it to be an improvement. The Council has subsequently requested additional signage to bring the new layout to the attention of regular users.

At Palms Hill vehicles continue to speed. The retaining walls have been struck by vehicles with debris now falling into the road. The Parish Council has lobbied Shropshire Council to review the safety of the retaining walls and work is scheduled for 2017/18.

GRANTS

Annual grant scheme and Community-led Grant

Wem Rural Parish Council awards grants on an annual basis to voluntary organisations and community groups. The paramount concern of the Council is that any grant application is beneficial to residents of the parish. This year's deadline is 23 January 2016

All applications will be considered on their individual merits. The final decision on assessment of applications and the level of any grant offered lies with Wem Rural Parish Council.

Local voluntary organisations, community groups and sports/recreational clubs can apply. All must be non-commercial, have a constitution, set of rules or documented aims and objectives and have a bank account with at least two signatures. Individuals may apply for grants if submitted by an organisation to which they belong. The organisation is responsible for

ensuring the grant is used for the purpose for which it was granted.

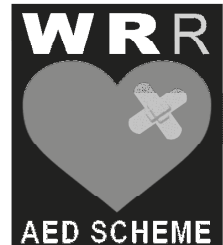
Grants can be used for capital projects or for revenue purposes but only for the purpose specified in the application.

Community-Led Grant

Following the completion of Round Meadow the Parish Council was granted £69,000 by Shropshire Council under its Community-Led Housing Scheme.

The criteria set by Shropshire Council for its use is the same as for the Neighbourhood Fund element of the Community Infrastructure Levy. It cannot be used for the day to day expenditure of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is considering the best use of this Grant and will report in future issues.

Help make WEM AND WEM RURAL a SAFER PLACE TO LIVE



Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are installed at Robinson and Young, Edinburgh House and the Co-op due to the generosity of local people, community groups, publically funded organisations and the Co-op.

They are maintained and used by groups of volunteers from Wem Town and Wem Rural, supported by West Midlands Ambulance Service. If there is a cardiac arrest the Ambulance Service, as well as sending an

ambulance, will make a call to the teams of volunteers, and the first available person will collect the AED and attend.

Both Town and Rural Groups need more volunteers. Would YOU be willing to make sure the AED is available to everyone in our community?

West Midlands Ambulance Service will train volunteers in AED use for free.

For more information and how you can be involved contact:
Len Staines (Wem Rural) 01939 234415 or lenstaines@btinternet.com
or
Anne Turner (Wem Town) 01939 236683 or anneturner391@gmail.com

“WEM INTO WORK” SCHEME SEES RESULTS

Wem Town Hall is demonstrating how with focus, determination and some support funding its residents' lives can be changed for the better.

'Wem into Work' has helped 37 people move from unemployment to finding work in the past 18 months. This represents a success rate of over 50 per cent of the clients the scheme has sought to help.

The scheme has been possible thanks to investment and support from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Shropshire Housing, Wem Town Hall and DCLG Transformation Challenge Award through Shropshire Council.

Project Leader Sarah Zacharek, who is employed by Wem Town Hall Community Trust, said that in a recent review the project had been 'a huge benefit to the town'.

On behalf of the Police Crime Commissioner, Community Ambassador Graham Oliver said: "It is a known fact that an aid to reducing crime is to have people in employment; it also helps reduce anti-social behaviour."

Sarah, together with a volunteer, a semi-retired teacher, use their varying backgrounds in business, literacy, interview techniques and CV development to give those who are referred to them a better chance of gaining employment.

Building self confidence is also a key element as is guidance with job searches, even a change in job options. Wem Town Hall works with Job Centre Plus and the local community offering the bespoke support to local unemployed people to help them secure employment and local businesses to fill vacancies.

Interested ?

Based at the Town Hall every Tuesday, support is provided to individuals who have been unemployed for less than 52 weeks. Help with job searches, updating CV, interview skills, confidence building, general computer skills and securing work placements is offered. Computers are available throughout the day to enable clients to carry out job searches independently.

Calling all employers

Do you have any vacancies that can be advertised on your behalf, help co-ordinate work placements and apprenticeships and match unemployed people to vacancies? Wem into Work can help you.

If you would like more information regarding this project, would like to book an appointment or discuss a vacancy you currently have please contact Sarah on 01939 232299 or email sarah@wemtownhall.co.uk.



HORSE AND JOCKEY re-opens after extensive renovation

For new opening times and other information
the website is
www.horseandjockeynorthwood.co.uk

EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL NEXT EVENT

“The 70s and 80s” QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 5th February
at 7.30pm

Tickets £8

includes hotpot supper
BAR

Tickets from Bev Horsley (bev@ryebank.co.uk)
Elaine Brown, Sandra Price, Don Gregory,
Neale Sadler, Liz Vernon, Carolyn Shingler,
Bev Gee, Pippa Brown

RURAL POLICING

Earlier this year at our Annual Parish Meeting we had a presentation from Sgt Claire Greenaway (West Mercia Police) and Roger Ashton from Farm Watch. The emphasis was on rural crime and its prevention.

Although we don't like to think that we might be victims of crime, there are things we can do to prevent or discourage it. If you have access to the internet there is plenty of advice on the West Mercia Police website and other Police Authorities.

An easy way to assess your own risk is to take time to walk round your own property and imagine you wanted to break in to steal; work out how you would do so and what you would do to prevent it. Then look at items of value and decide how you would identify them if the worst happened. Yes, this seems all very simple, but how many of us can honestly say we have done this?

You can also make use of a facility called Immobilise, where you can securely register your possessions and more easily identify them if lost or stolen. It has the support of Police Forces across the country, including West Mercia, and also has useful information on how you can make your belongings more secure.

What happens if you need help? Our local Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team, also

covers Wem Town and Wem Rural and should be your first point of contact. More details are on the West Mercia Police website, and the Safer Neighbourhood team can be contacted by calling 101, or by email whitchurch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk. The team are prepared to visit homes and premises to give advice on crime prevention, probably the only time you would be happy to see a police car on your drive!

Closely associated with the Police are the Watch Associations. Roger Ashton is the Neighbourhood and Farm Watch Co-ordinator for Aston and Lee Brockhurst. You can find out more about it from him on 01939 232425. If you want to join a Watch scheme you can find details on www.westmercia.police.uk/watch.

REMEMBER

In case of an emergency or a crime in progress, dial 999

For non urgent incidents and crimes that are not in progress, dial 101

**Non-emergency email
contactus@westmercia.police.uk**

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

**Are you eligible
for a free flu jab?**

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged six months to under 65, in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- carers
- all children aged two, three and four-year-olds (on 31 August 2015)

For further information see www.shropshire.gov.uk/news/2015/10/stay-well-this-winter-nows-the-time-to-get-your-free-flu-jab/

• Those unsure as to whether they are eligible can contact their local GP or pharmacist to find out if they are eligible for the free flu vaccination.



Wem Rural Parish Council

www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk



Wem Rural Community

PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

EDSTASTON

Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem SY4 5RF
Cath Coppinger	07946 495775	The Moorhead, Edstaston SY4 5RG
Jon Murgatroyd	01939 234384	Grange Farm, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5QY
Vacancy		
Pete Slack	01939 236990	Fairview, 7 Paddol Green, Wem SY4 5QZ

NEWTOWN

Geoff Glover	01939 233357	The Old Stables, 1 The Barns, The Lowe, Wem SY4 5UE
Trevor Hayward	01939 233400	Oakhurst, The Lowe, nr Wem SY4 5UE

WEM

Peter Broomhall	01939 232573	3 Swain Close, Wem SY4 5NZ
Peter Marsh	01939 232498	Aston Hall, Wem SY4 5JQ
Fiona Ford	01939 234358	Gwiwer Barn, Woodhouse Farm, Shawbury Road, Wem SY4 5PF
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 clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday
5 January 2015

Tuesday
2 February 2015

Tuesday
1 March 2015

Tuesday
5 April 2015

Tuesday
10 May 2015
Please note 2nd Tuesday

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 Roden Suite, 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 Extraordinary 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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