



# Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council  
Issue 19 February 2017

## In this Issue

### WELCOME

Round Meadow Play  
Equipment

Edstaston Village Hall

Newhampton C of E  
Schools Federation

Wem Integrated  
Community Management  
Project

Council Elections

Planning Policy Partial  
Review

Budget 2017/2018

Annual Grants

## 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:  
[clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk)

## WELCOME

to the latest addition of Wem Rural Parish Council's newsletter, Rural Review.

This is the last newsletter before local council elections which takes place on 4 May. All of your current parish councillors are up for re-election, for a new 4 year term, and this is the ideal time for you to stand for election if you would like to play a part in shaping and managing key issues which affect all in the parish. If you are interested please contact our clerk, Carole Warner on 01948 710672 and she will explain the process (which is simple and pain free!) and answer any questions that you may have.

On the 4 April we will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting at Edinburgh House starting at 7pm. This meeting is your opportunity to raise any local parish issues that you may have and ask questions of your councillors. Directly after the Annual Parish Meeting we will be holding our monthly Parish Council Meeting where all members of our parish are welcome to come and listen to the current topics being discussed which may impact you and your families.

Finally you will find enclosed with this newsletter a 'Housing Needs Questionnaire'. The parish council is very interested in your views on both current and future housing need and the feedback that you provide will be used to directly shape our future 'Planning Development Policy'. Please do take the time to either complete the attached questionnaire, and return to us in the attached pre-paid envelope, or log on to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/WemRuralHousingNeed](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WemRuralHousingNeed) where the survey can be completed online. I cannot emphasise enough the importance that your feedback will have and would urge you to take the 5 minutes to share your views.

I hope that you find all the articles in this edition useful.

**Jon Murgatroyd**  
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

## Round Meadow

As part of the development of Round Meadow it was agreed that the Parish Council would provide play equipment on the green space. In February the swings and the combination slide were installed — just in time for half term! We hope the children will enjoy them.



# Community Updates

## Edstaston Village Hall

Edstaston Village Hall is the grateful beneficiary of money from the Community-Led Housing Grant Scheme. The hall is the only community venue within Wem Rural Parish and is offering improved facilities for meetings, parties, sports activities, community events.

The Village Hall Committee work hard to provide funds for the ongoing maintenance of the hall. However, the hall is now 40 years old and there is an ongoing attempt to update and modernise the hall. In 2016, the Community-Led Housing Grant provided £2,150 and was match funded by the Village Hall funds to provide new LED lighting which has been welcomed by users of the hall. In January 2017 another grant application under the Community-Led Housing Grant Scheme has resulted in £2,084 being provided, together with the match funding, to replace the original windows with energy efficient double glazed windows. To reduce condensation, there will also be the installation of an extractor fan, decoration and new tiles in the kitchen. This will make a huge difference for the

users. In the future, the Village Hall Committee hope to build a small extension so that the kitchen can be enlarged and a toilet for the disabled can be installed. This will benefit the more elderly users as well. The Committee is saving up so we can match fund any future grant contributions!!

Please come along to our events. The Committee provide wonderful food and can put on a 'good do'! In November 2016 the attendees were very pleased to welcome a local person, Martin Carruthers, who gave us a fascinating talk about diamonds. The next event will be on Friday 5 May 2017. This will be a Cocktail Evening so come and sample and have some fun! Tickets can be purchased from Bev Horsley 01939 232956, Elaine Brown 01939 233891 and Liz Vernon 01939 234896. Also visit Edstaston Village Hall on Facebook [www.facebook.com/Edstaston-Village-Hall-522954747846862/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/Edstaston-Village-Hall-522954747846862/?fref=ts) If you are planning an event of your own, the rates for hire are very reasonable. Contact the Bookings Secretary Sandra Price 01939 232590.

## Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation

The Newhampton C.E. Schools Federation has been operating for nine months now and there has been wonderful progress. All our Committees are now set up and our Finance and Curriculum Committees have met. Link Governors are in post and we are each looking forward to visiting the schools in our designated roles.

By the end of the spring term, each class teacher will have been given the opportunity to visit either Newtown or Welshampton. The feedback from the teachers that have been able to do this so far has been very positive and each has felt inspired and motivated following their visit. We are in a very unique position to have a team in each school that is innovative and has nationally recognised teachers for their specific expertise i.e. Design and Technology, Science, I.T., Maths. We now have training dates in the diary for subject areas which will enhance best practice across the schools.

We have recently held a Strategic Meeting and agreed our vision: "An outstanding educational provision, ethos and pastoral care for all pupils." Our strategic planning format identifies each aspect of school life and links directly to the areas Ofsted analyses during inspections. Our Strategic Vision has been shared with all staff so that we are all working towards the same thing - without our very dynamic and inspiring team of teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, cooks, cleaners etc. we would not be able to drive the schools forward. Thank you to everyone for their commitment and determination to make the Federation a success.

## Wem Integrated Community Management Project

Wem Rural Parish Council has been a partner in an initiative known as Integrated Community Management (ICM) which started as part of a regional initiative by West Mercia Police to develop a new approach to multi-agency working. Some of the underlying objectives of the initiative is to secure engagement of relevant partner agencies in identifying and responding to local concerns and issues and to work with communities and develop more community resilience.

The Wem ICM area is West Mercia's Wem Safer Neighbourhood area which is all of Wem Rural Parish except for Quina Brook and hamlets north of Quina Brook (this area comes under the Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team). Partners in the project include Wem Town Council, the Police, Shropshire Council and Housing Associations.

As part of this project Shropshire Council is keen to understand how local people feel about the area where they live and the services they receive there. So, they are now looking for residents to take part by completing a quarterly perception questionnaire to capture community feedback and establish if communities notice any changes in the ICM areas.

If you're interested in being part of this, please respond by registering on the link below.

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteers-for-a-new-community-project/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteers-for-a-new-community-project/)

# COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Local Elections will take place on Thursday 4 May this year. This means that all Shropshire Council Town and Parish Council seats will be open to candidates. All 12 seats on Wem Rural Parish Council will be open for nominations.

So, do you want to help get things done in your neighbourhood? Are you already active in your community? As a councillor, you really can make a difference. Being a councillor is a rewarding form of public service that puts you in a unique position where you can make decisions about local issues and improve the quality of life for people within Wem Rural Parish. It gives you the opportunity to help your local community and be part of a dedicated team influencing and providing key services for your area.

The councillor's role takes in:

- Representing the parish ward
- Decision making
- Policy and strategy review and development
- Community leadership and engagement

Community Leadership is at the heart of modern local government and councils are taking on new responsibilities for working in partnership with other organisations, including Shropshire Council and the voluntary and community sector, to improve services and the quality of life for citizens.

The notice of elections will be published on Monday 13 March and it's only from that date that nomination forms can be submitted to the Returning Officer at Shropshire Council. The law now states that nomination papers may only be delivered to the Returning Officer in person, and can't be received through the post. Shropshire Council will publish further information where you can submit nomination papers in person, shortly before the nomination period opens. The deadline for nominations is 4pm on Tuesday 4 April.

Full details can be found on Shropshire Council website: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/democracy/voting-and-elections/local-elections---may-2017/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/democracy/voting-and-elections/local-elections---may-2017/) or phone Electoral Services 0345 678 9015.

## BUDGET 2017/2018

Soon you will receive the Council Tax Demand from Shropshire Council which includes elements destined for other public bodies including the Parish Council. You will notice that the Parish Council has increased its 'precept' (the official name for the amount of tax paid through the Council Tax).

Raising the precept is never an easy decision but having discussed plans for the next financial year over several meetings the Council considered that to fulfil its role it had to raise the precept to £25,000. The average Band D tax payer's Wem Rural component will be £37.70 per annum and equates to 73p per week.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

At the February meeting of Parish Council the Annual Community Grant Applications were reviewed. The Council was pleased to award £300 to each of the following groups and organisations:

Newtown Church  
Newtown Community and  
Recreation Association  
Friends of Whitchurch Road  
Cemetery  
NS Wheelers  
Wem Scouts

We will asking these groups to report back on how the grants have been used in future newsletters.

## PLANNING POLICY PARTIAL REVIEW

Local Authorities are required to produce documents which set out proposals for the use of land and policies to guide future development. These are known as the 'Local Plan'. Shropshire Council is currently consulting on a partial review of its Local Plan.

Shropshire Council is keen to maintain a robust and defensible Local Plan for its area. The partial review will help to ensure that there is an up to date and deliverable Plan which will help to ensure that local, rather than national policies act as the principal benchmark for planning decision.

The consultation invites feedback on choices for each of the following strategic options:

- i. Housing requirement
- ii. Strategic distribution of future growth
- iii. Strategies for employment growth
- iv. Delivering development in rural settlements

Wem Rural Parish is currently classed as 'Countryside' within Planning Policies which means residential development is restricted with no 'open market' housing. The review of 'Delivering development in rural settlements' is therefore of particular importance.

The Parish Council will be taking part in the consultation process and encourages residents to take time to understand the consultation options and give feedback to their local Parish Councillors. Copies of the consultation documents are available on Shropshire Council's website and paper copies at main libraries. The deadline for responses is 20 March 2017.



# Wem Rural Parish Council

[www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk)

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

### EDSTASTON

Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem, SY4 5RF
Gillian Coleman	01948 880944	Coton Grove, Coton, Whitchurch, SY13 2PQ
Jon Murgatroyd	01939 234384	Grange Farm, Poolhead, Wem, SY4 5QY
Bob Parsons	01939 23443	The Chapel, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5UH
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
--------------	--------------	--

### RODEN

Peter Broomhall	01939 232573	3 Swains 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](mailto:clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk)

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday  
7 March 2017

Tuesday  
4 April 2017  
(start 7.30pm)

Tuesday  
9 May 2017  
(Note 2nd Tuesday)

Tuesday  
6 June 2017

Annual Parish Meeting  
Tuesday 4 April  
7pm

## 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 (31 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.



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. When you have finished with it please recycle.