



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 20 July 2017

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WELCOME

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

As you will be aware in May local elections took place across the country. Nine parish councillors were re-elected whilst three councillors stood down from the council. As a result we currently have three vacancies and are actively looking for new councillors to help use manage and shape our wonderful parish. If you are interested in being a councillor more information can be found in this issue of Rural Review.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Parsons, Gillian Coleman and Trevor Hayward for the important contribution that they made to the Parish Council and the hard work that put in during their time as councillors.

I hope you find the articles in the Rural Review of interest. If you do have any questions or issues that you would like the Parish Council to respond to please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk.

I hope you all have a pleasant and hopefully sunny summer break!

Jon Murgatroyd
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

Coton Hall Cricket Club

Last month Coton Hall Cricket Club took delivery of a brand new bowling machine, balls and batting cage assisted by the Parish Council through the Community-Led Housing Grant scheme. The Club has both junior and senior teams and if you are interested in joining the Club contact Alan Cliff on 01939 234790 or arcliff13@gmail.com.



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
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

Become a Parish Councillor!

Do you want to help get things done in your neighbourhood? Are you already active in your community? As a councillor, you can make a difference. Wem Rural Parish Council is looking for 3 people to join the Council, 2 to represent Edstaston Ward and 1 to represent Newtown Ward.

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

Being an effective councillor requires some work. The primary role of a councillor is to represent their ward and the people who live in it. 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.

Councillors are expected to take steps to keep in touch with their communities. It is hoped that they will, at least on an annual basis, attend meetings of local community groups. Councillors are also chosen to represent Wem Rural Parish Council on outside bodies (both local and county) which include a wide range of trusts, associations and committees.

HIGHWAYS

Residents will be fully aware of the inconvenience road closures for highways repairs and improvements have on day to day activities and Wem Rural Parish has had its fair share of road closures over the last few months.

Following these recent closures residents have brought several issues to the Parish Council's attention, the most concerning being the poor attitude displayed by some contractors supervising access through closures towards residents. Specific instances during the improvements at Barkers Green and Newtown were reported. The Parish Council has subsequently brought these issues to the attention of Shropshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways and the Highways, Transport & Environmental Maintenance Commissioning Manager.

During August and September there will be another round of closures: Edstaston 19 August for two days, Ryebank 24 August for one day, Barkers Green 28 August for three days and Thistleford Bridge, Aston 4 September for 12 days.

The Parish Council hopes there will be no re-occurrence of this poor attitude.

On a positive note repairs are planned for Horton / B5063 junction as part of the Loppington re-surfacing and the closures planned for Barkers Green should resolve all outstanding matters.

Age UK is looking for some very special people

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is looking for some very special people, who are willing to volunteer some of their time to make a real difference to the lives of older people in Wem.

We are urgently looking for helpers for our weekly day centre which takes place on Tuesdays at Prince William Court from 10am to 2.30pm. Helpers welcome members, serve refreshments, wash up, organise and deliver a range of social activities and chat to members. Applicants will have support to get into their roles and find their feet, and agreed expenses will be provided.

The Charity has 40 Older People Enjoying Life (OPEL) day centres in Shropshire which provide a weekly day out for older people; the centres provide social stimulation, activities and a hot meal, the main emphasis being on the prevention of isolation and loneliness.

Heather Osborne, Chief Executive of Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of local older people, and to be part of a dedicated team of volunteers. Please get in touch and find out more about these roles."

If you think you may be interested, please contact Janice Williams or Claire Lewis in Volunteer Recruitment on 01743 588570. There is no commitment, you could find out more about the role and visit the day centre before making up your mind.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARISH

Firstly, thank you to all the residents who completed the Housing Needs Survey enclosed with the last edition of Rural Review. The Council received 80 responses and a summary of the questions relating to future development is set out below:

To see more housing in the parish over the next 10 years:
Yes 43.5% No 43.5% Unsure 13%

To see some open market housing development in order to fund affordable housing development?
Yes 48% No 20.5% Unsure 31.5%

What type of housing might be appropriate?

The majority of responders who answered the question supported affordable housing to buy or rent for local people followed by open market to buy.

What size of housing might be appropriate?

The majority of responders who answered the question supported 3/4 bedroom and 1/2 bedroom properties.

How many dwellings might be appropriate (over the next period)?
The preference of responders who answered the question was 21 – 50 dwellings followed by 10 – 20

Where should any new housing be developed?

The preference of responders who answered the question was edge of settlement, adjacent to existing built up areas followed by in-fill between existing housing.

The Parish Council is now investigating all options and will consult again in due course. To view the full results visit:
<http://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/planning/>

Shropshire Council Consultations Have YOUR Say!

Residents who follow the Parish Council meetings will have seen from time the item 'Consultations' on the agenda. Various bodies, but in the main Shropshire Council, will consult with Town and Parish Councils on their plans / initiatives.

The Parish Council responds to the majority of the consultation documents on behalf of the Parish residents but occasionally it is important for individual residents to respond too.

Over the next few months Shropshire Council will be consulting on libraries, car parking charges, outdoor recreation including rights of way just to name a few. It is important that your views are made directly to Shropshire Council on these key issues.

All Shropshire Council consultation are listed at
<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/>

Broadband Update

Connecting Shropshire has announced that Airband Community Internet Ltd will be providing high-speed wireless broadband access to rural areas as the next part of Shropshire Council's superfast broadband programme. Airband will be deploying wireless broadband, which works by sending a signal from a transmitter on a mast, to a receiver attached to the property. A cable is then run into the building allowing the end-user to access the internet in the same way as any other broadband connection.

Wireless technologies have continued to evolve and provide the same broadband speed capabilities as a fibre optic solution and with the same resilience. Airband will wholesale their network out to other internet service providers (ISPs) so there will be a choice of ISPs like fibre. Generally speaking similar wireless and fibre packages have comparable costs so wireless broadband should not be more expensive.

In the next few months Shropshire Council will prepare a map so we can see which properties are in the current plan. The build will be split into phases, with phase 1 due for completion at the end of winter 2017. Further information on the phases

will be added to the Connecting Shropshire website.

Airband technology relies on 'Line of Sight', which means that the receiver on a property needs to have a clear view of one of the Airband transmitters. In the design and planning phase of the project, Airband use advanced software to map each property and establish where a connection can be achieved, without the need to complete an on site survey for each property.

The receiver that will be installed to a property is a small lightweight piece of equipment — about the size of 2 pint milk carton. Where the property is a bit further away from the transmitter, the receiver will have a round, mini dish-like attachment.





Wem Rural Parish Council

www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

EDSTASTON

Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem, SY4 5RF
Vacancy		
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
Vacancy		

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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday
1 August 2017

Tuesday
5 September 2017

Tuesday
3 October 2017

Tuesday
7 November 2017

Tuesday
5 December 2017

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.



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