



Rural Review

The Newsletter for the Wem Rural Community
Issue 1 December 2010

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Rural Review

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WELCOME...

to the first newsletter for the Wem Rural Community. Some of you are probably thinking; "What is the 'Wem Rural community'?" and "Why a newsletter?"

Wem Rural community, or to give its more traditional name, parish, covers villages and hamlets that completely encircle Wem town. It stretches from Wolverley and Northwood in the west to Lacon in the east, and from Coton in the north to Tilley and Trench in the south. It has been likened to a 'doughnut' parish because Wem Town is in the centre! Having established the area, why a newsletter? Parish Councillors are aware that there are issues that residents and businesses in the Parish feel strongly about. These are brought to the Parish Council, but there has not always been the means to communicate to you, the wider community. The Council hopes, that through this newsletter, you will be better informed of issues affecting us.

The Council aims to publish at least 2 Rural Review Newsletters a year and welcomes feedback either direct to Councillors, via email or post.

Richard Powell
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

Newtown Play Park News



PLAYBUILDER GRANT AWARD FOR NEWTOWN PLAY PARK

Residents will be aware that in Autumn 2009 the Newtown Play Park was closed due to safety issues highlighted by RoSPA. Newtown Community Recreation Association (NCRA) applied successfully for a Playbuilder Grant of £30,000 to bring an improved play park back into use. Then, as part of Government cut backs, it was announced the scheme was to be axed. NCRA did not take this bad news lying down and took their fight direct to the top! Supported by Wem Rural Parish Council and Shropshire Councillors,

letters were written to local MP, Owen Paterson and the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove MP.

Whilst the fight was being pursued, NCRA decided that the play park needed to be re-opened. A working party of Councillors and local residents laid a new bark surface and removed broken items. Within hours of the play park being re-opened children were happily playing! Local businessmen, Andrew Kirk and John Lay, donated the machinery to carry out all this work. A £500 grant from Muller Community Trust helped with important repairs and the purchase of cradle swings. A big thank you to all who helped in any way!

Last month NCRA received the fantastic news that the Dept for Education had achieved its savings without any existing agreements being cut. This means the £30,000 grant is secure! Shropshire Council will now help NCRA with the design and management of the project. The Newtown community will, of course, be involved in the process. The new, improved play park is expected to be completed by March 2011.

COMMUNITY PLAN

If you don't know what a Community (or Parish) Plan is we hope you soon will, because the development of one for Wem Rural is now well underway! A community led plan should be a statement of how a community sees itself and its future, and

- reflect the views of all sections of the community
- identify the features and local characteristics that people value
- identify local problems and opportunities for improvement
- spell out how residents want their community to develop in the future
- provide a plan of action to achieve this vision.

Whixall, Loppington, Welshampton & Lyneal, Prees, Wem Town and Clive all have parish plans so it's high time we joined them! The plan is of relevance to everyone because it captures the things that are

important to our community and gives our councils (Parish and County) something to refer to when considering what is right for us (e.g. when dealing with planning applications etc).

The creation of the plan is being driven by a voluntary 'steering group' but it is our aim to consult the whole community and we will try to get input from **every** household in the parish. Preparing the plan is a major exercise. We will be sending questionnaires to all households in the spring and then we will analyse and digest the findings before drafting a final plan that we hope to complete by March 2012.

To get you thinking about what you value in your community we are running a photo competition with "Our Community" as the theme. Full details are on the website and there are book voucher prizes for the three winners.

Find out more on our website at www.wemrural.org

YOUR chance to be heard

Book your place NOW

Tuesday 18 January 2011
from 6.30pm
Edinburgh House
Wem

Shropshire Council is inviting people who live and work in Wem Rural Parish to a special one-off event at Edinburgh House, Wem on Tuesday 18 January 2011. This is a chance for **YOU** to share your local knowledge about your area with Shropshire Council Councillor Chris Mellings, the Parish Council and with each other.

The evening will begin with refreshments from 6.30pm (ahead of a 7pm start.) and is expected to finish at around 9.45pm.

Shropshire Council is looking for between 20 and 30 local people aged 14 years and over to take part. **PLACES NEED TO BE RESERVED IN ADVANCE** (so that people can be sent more information ahead of the event). The Council aims to have a mix of people of different ages and interests from different parts of the parish in group discussion tables.

Councillor Chris Mellings said:

"We are keen to hear from people who may not have been involved in anything before but would be

able to give up an evening on this occasion, as well as from people already active in the community who want to share their views. This will help to ensure that Shropshire Council has the best quality information possible about life in the area, based on local knowledge and views, as well as on the information that the Council already has about Wem Rural Parish. This information will help shape how we meet the future needs of our communities."

An interactive approach that has already been tried with other rural parishes in Shropshire will be used. It is based on a set of questions about what makes a community sustainable. The same questions are asked wherever these events are held, so the answers can be used as a guideline for planning priorities and community priorities in that area.

Where a parish is looking at producing a Community Plan, as is the case for Wem Rural, the idea is that this event will help to gather people together, leading to an improved up-to-date base for local people to start from.

People will also be asked to give their views on what community benefits might be important to the area and help their community develop and thrive in the future. The end results will be made available to all the parish in a variety of formats. There will also be a report in this newsletter and the results discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 15 March 2011.

Organisers are encouraging people to get their names in on a first come first served basis by Monday 10 January 2011, to Mrs Lois Dale. Contact details are 01743 255667, or email lois.dale@shropshire.gov.uk.



Community Tree Scheme



The Community Tree Scheme enables Parish Tree Wardens or schools, environmental and community groups, Parish and Town Councils, farmers and landowners to apply to Shropshire Council for native trees and shrubs free of charge.

Trees are usually supplied as small bare-rooted transplants between 40 and 90cm tall. Rabbit spirals and canes are included to protect the trees.

Very short lengths of native countryside hedging may also be supplied for "gapping up" or linking hedges

or other habitats (but applications must include at least one hedgerow tree).

For more information about this scheme please contact your local tree warden Eirene Crainey on 01948 710218. Alternatively application forms are available from Natural Environment Team, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND or find more information and download an application form from www.shropshire.gov.uk/environment.nsf

NEW EVACUATION PLANS FOR WEM AND OUR PARISH

As a result of the tyre shred fires on the Wem Industrial Estate the first ever evacuation plans are being formulated for Wem Town and Wem Rural Parish.

The Parish Council has been involved in briefings and meetings with Wem Town Council, Shropshire Council and emergency agencies regarding the actions taken since the fires to ensure living and working in the parish is safer. The Parish Council is aware that major incidents of any nature could involve a partial or full evacuation and is committed to ensuring it plays a full role in discussions and decisions on behalf of residents.

The Parish Council is also committed to a public briefing by Shropshire Council and the emergency agencies on the fires and, hopefully by the time you read this newsletter, details of the briefing will have been announced, or, better still, held.

Once the evacuation plan has been agreed residents will be informed of the outline plans.

Public Meeting (Car Parking Strategy)

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About 100 residents turned out to voice their concerns about controversial plans to introduce parking charges in Wem. Shropshire Councillor Martin Taylor-Smith, the member responsible for this strategy warned people that car parking charges were compulsory, but residents could work with their town and parish councils on the best ways to implement them.

Both the Wem Rural Parish Council and Wem Town Council responded during the consultation process. It is expected that Shropshire Council will make a decision on the strategy in early December. The Parish Council is aware that local people have expressed a wide range of opinions on the charges and its aim is to continue to represent, as faithfully as possible, these views.

If the strategy is implemented there will be a number of practical issues to address and the Parish Council will offer to work with both Wem Town and Shropshire Council to achieve the best possible solution.

Traffic issues in Wem Rural Parish

Quina Brook, Northwood, Newtown and Shawbury Road

Quina Brook

The 40mph speed restriction along the B5476 has slowed some drivers but not as many as local residents and the Parish Council had hoped. The Parish Council is continuing its campaign to slow the traffic and has questioned the position of some signs with Shropshire Council. Shropshire Council have committed to carry out a review 12 months from implementation.

Northwood

There are 2 current issues: the location of a Vehicle Activated Sign (the flashing sign which records a vehicle's speed) and the extension of the 30mph on the south side. A very constructive site meeting was held recently with Parish Councillors, local residents and Shropshire Council's Traffic Dept. Shropshire Council is now reviewing the Council's and residents' comments.

Newtown

Some progress has been made with Shropshire Council committing to painting a new SLOW sign on the road, renewing the school warning signs and moving one sign to give better visibility to drivers. Wem Rural Parish Council also discovered that Newtown had been missed off Shropshire Council's Village Speed Limit Programme — this has now been corrected!

Shawbury Road

Parish Councillors are concerned with the recent number of traffic accidents along the Shawbury Road. The Council is currently requesting information from the Police on all accidents over the last 5 years to assess what action should be recommended. Residents' views on traffic along this road are also sought — please contact your Parish Councillor.



Wem Rural Parish Council

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.

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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday
7 December 2010

Tuesday
4 January 2011

Tuesday
1 February 2011

Tuesday
1 March 2011

Parish Meeting
Tuesday
15 March 2011

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.

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 speak direct to 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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