



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 4 January 2012

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BROADBAND
www.connectingshropshire.co.uk

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Rural Review

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WELCOME...

to the fourth newsletter for the Wem Rural Community and a belated 'Happy New Year'! 2012 will bring some big challenges to national and local government and to us all as families and individuals. Some of the changes the Localism Act will bring are outlined inside and the Parish Council will endeavour to keep you up to date as these changes are implemented. On a lighter note, 2012 sees the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee; you will be interested to read about the initial plans of how Wem and the surrounding areas will mark this occasion.

However, 2012 is no exception in that this month you read and hear in national and local media about Local Councils setting their Budgets. At its last meeting the Parish Council approved its Budget for 2012/13 and resolved that the contribution collected from local Council Tax payers will not increase. One area of planned expenditure is to look into improving our website to include more local news and features. If you have any thoughts on what you would like to see on the website please contact the Parish Clerk.

Richard Powell
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

BROADBAND

www.connectingshropshire.co.uk

In a world of ever-increasing reliance on a fast, effective and secure communications infrastructure it is essential that both rural and urban communities and businesses are able to benefit from the convenience provided by online services. However, thousands of people in rural parts of Shropshire are still struggling along with snail-like broadband speeds.

Shropshire Council was recently granted £8.2 million (shared with Telford and Wrekin) by the Government's Broadband Delivery UK Scheme to help roll out high speed internet in the county.

Shropshire Council plans to use this funding to achieve 3 aims:

- to allow 100% of Shropshire access to a minimum of 2mbps broadband speed
- to deliver superfast broadband to as much of the county as possible
- because mobile broadband is envisaged to be a growth area, ensuring this is catered for as well

WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP

Demonstrating demand for superfast broadband by individuals and businesses in Shropshire is crucial.

The Parish Council has already sent a letter supporting the broadband project to add to the evidence base that broadband is wanted by Shropshire residents.

YOU can show your interest by filling in the personal and/or business questionnaires on the website www.connectingshropshire.co.uk This will help Shropshire Council understand where the need and demand for broadband in the county lies and this will help to prioritise investment.

(If you are unable to access the website because your internet connection is too slow, please call Shropshire Council's information and research team on 01743 252598.)

Shropshire Council intend to issue quarterly updates to the Parish Council on progress with the project and this will be passed on through the newsletter.

LOCALISM AND YOU

2012 brings many new challenges to Wem Rural Parish Council and it is more important than ever to involve the whole community in planning for the future of our parish.

The Government's Localism Act received Royal Assent in November 2011 and most of this Act will come in to effect in April. The Government's stated aim of the Act is to transfer control of decisions that affect our day to day lives from central government and to empower communities to take local decisions in partnership with their local authorities and parish or town councils.

There will be new freedoms and flexibilities for councils:

- The 'general power of competence' gives them more freedom to do things with some restrictions for its use by parish or town councils.
- It also clarifies the rules on 'predetermination' to ensure councillors can take part in discussions and decisions with an open mind.

There will also be important rights for communities:

- The right to challenge how money is spent on services
- The right to bid for assets of community value
- The right to build assets for the benefit of the community such as homes, shops, playgrounds, village halls, etc.

Wem Rural Parish Council will hold its Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May when you will have a chance to ask questions and give your opinions on how your Parish Council can represent your views in these challenging times.

NEW LITTER BIN AT QUINA BROOK

At the request of Wem Rural Parish Council a new litter bin has been installed in Quina Brook. Shropshire Council was initially reluctant but have agreed to give the bin a year's trial so as the saying goes "use it or lose it"!

BUS TIMETABLES

**Do you use the local buses?
Would you if it was easier to find
out when they run?**

Shropshire Council has launched a new on-line timetable service which makes it quicker to find out details of all bus services operating in Shropshire.

Go to www.shropshire.gov.uk/bustimes or you can still call the Travel line on 0871 200 22 33.



Following a very well supported Public Meeting in Wem last November to discuss how the community wished to celebrate this historic national celebration, a joint Steering Group made up of representatives of Wem Town Council, Wem Rural Parish Council and local community groups has been formed.

Many creative ideas have been suggested and an exciting line-up of events is emerging. Various joint celebrations throughout May will culminate in a weekend of events in Wem on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd of June. These include a town parade, a "big picnic", 1950s themed events ranging from It's a Knockout, junior games, vintage car and agricultural vehicle display, lots of competitions, Wem's Got Talent, music from various Wem school and other community groups, a Hog Roast and a joint act of worship.

A lot of planning remains (including raising funding and sponsorship from individuals, businesses, Parish and Town Councils, etc.) so if you would like to be involved or to find out more please come along to the next Steering Committee Meeting on Wednesday 22 February at 7.15pm in Wem Town Hall.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING BIN WEM CAR PARK

Shropshire Council is no longer accepting any cardboard in our kerbside green bins. They have provided a new recycling container specifically for cardboard in the Co-op car park in Wem.

The Parish Council and our local Shropshire Councillors are working on your behalf to re-instate kerbside collections.

TELL US ONCE

After a bereavement or birth there are many Government departments and local council services that need to be told about the birth or death. Until now, these departments needed to be contacted individually. Shropshire Council has teamed up with the Department for Work and Pensions to introduce a new TELL US ONCE service aimed at supporting a new parent or recently bereaved person through a step-by-step process that will automatically notify central and local governments of their change in circumstances.

By notifying up to 28 different services on their behalf, Tell Us Once is a much easier way for bereaved families and new parents to report their change in circumstances to the relevant authorities. Overall, a person using the Tell Us Once service can expect to contact government agencies seven fewer times when compared to previous arrangements.

For more information on this service call 0345 678 9016 or visit www.shropshire.gov.uk.

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COMMUNITY PLAN

The Wem Rural Community Plan Steering group is still working hard to produce the Community Plan and is on target to complete it by the middle of the year. The data you provided in answering our questionnaires is being analysed to help us compile the Community Plan.

However, before we complete the plan we are keen to get the views of all the businesses of the Parish both large and small. To do this a sub-committee has drawn up a Business Questionnaire and we are now working on distributing and publicising it.

We plan to contact all businesses in Wem Rural Parish by post in February, giving instructions on

how to access and complete this important questionnaire. We ask that all businesses try to spend the approximately 10 minutes it should take for you to give us your views.

One of the most difficult parts of this process has been compiling a comprehensive list of **ALL** the businesses in the Parish.

If you run a business in the parish from home or separate premises or are a sole trader (plumber, electrician, etc.) and haven't received a letter about the questionnaire by 14 February please contact our Steering Group Chairman, Jon Murgatroyd on 01939 234384 to ensure that you can access the questionnaire.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

Severn Trent Water Works

Severn Trent Water is proposing an extensive replacement programme of old leaking water main pipes on the B5476 (between Wem and Quina Brook) and also the road through Edstaston, Ryebank and Creamore. They say this may take up to 5 months between March and September.

Because of the major disruption this will inevitably cause Severn Trent and Shropshire Council Highways Department are planning to hold a public meeting at Edstaston Village Hall to inform residents. The Parish Council is currently working with Severn Trent, Shropshire Council's Highways Team and the major local businesses affected on proposals for managing traffic flow.

In the meantime look out for posters and newspaper articles advertising a public meeting and also the Parish Council website www.wemrural.org.uk for further information.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

New 101 Police Phone Number

101 is the new number to call when you want to contact the local police — when it's less urgent than 999. For example, if your car has been stolen, if your property has been damaged, if you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood, to report a minor traffic collision, to give the police information about crime in our area or to speak to the police about a general enquiry.

Calls from landlines and mobile networks cost 15p per call, no matter what time of day or how long you are on the phone. If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired you can textphone 18001 101.

Remember, in an emergency always call 999.





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 February 2012
(7.15pm start)

Tuesday
6 March 2012

Tuesday
3 April 2012

Tuesday
1 May 2012

Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday
15 May 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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