



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 13 February 2015

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Rural Review

is produced by
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WELCOME...

to our first Rural Review of 2015.

This year promises to be an eventful one for our parish, with the completion and occupation of the homes at Round Meadow. Also at least some of us will have the opportunity to be connected to superfast broadband. Much less welcome is the expected disruption as a result of closure of Soulton Road.

We are nearly back to a full complement of councillors, with just one vacancy, for Newtown ward. There's much more to find out in the following pages, so please read on! Don't forget our website as well for information on a very wide range of topics affecting Wem Rural. Your councillors and I wish you a successful and enjoyable Year!

Len Staines Vice-chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

ROUND MEADOW



NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES NEARING COMPLETION

The first homes at Round Meadow, Soulton Road are on schedule to be completed in early March. Allocation of this first phase of homes is currently under way with 8 of the 23 homes being advertised on Homepoint. These homes are for affordable rent (6 x 2 bed houses and 2 x 3 bed houses).

For the first 10 weeks of advertising, these homes will be allocated exclusively to people with a Wem Rural Parish local connection. If after 10 weeks homes are still available, the allocation process broadens to include Wem Urban (Town) Parish residents who can prove a local connection to Wem Urban Parish. The process of widening of the area from which applicants can apply is known as the 'cascade'.

(continued overleaf)

ROUND MEADOW cont.

Phase 2 will consist of the remaining 9 affordable rent homes (3 x 2 bed bungalows, 3 x 2 bed houses and 3 x 3 bed houses). These homes are expected to be advertised before the end of January. Phase 2 homes are due to be completed at the end of March.

Phase 3 will be the shared ownership homes (3 x 2 bed houses and 3 x 3 bed houses) with an expected completion date of early June. These 6 homes will also be advertised at the end of January, again on Homepoint, to allow time for occupiers to organise their funding element of the 'shared ownership' ready for June completion.

Phases 2 and 3 will be allocated on the same local connection criteria and the cascade process starting

from the first day the Phase is advertised on Homepoint.

To be able to apply for any of these homes you must be registered with Shropshire Homepoint.

For more information on the homes, local connection criteria and the cascade allocation process go to www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/round-meadow-soulton-road-wem/.

For more information on Shropshire Homepoint go to www.shropshirehomepoint.co.uk.

(The timescales for advertising and completion were accurate at the time of writing. Please refer to the Parish Council's website for the latest details.)

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COMPLETE CLOSURE OF B5065 (Soulton Road)

Monday 16 February to Friday 27 March

Shropshire Council has scheduled essential drainage and resurfacing works along a section of Soulton Road (B5065) between the entrance to Lower Lacon Caravan Park, and the junction for Lacon Hall. Unfortunately this requires the complete closure of the road.

Concerned councillors from Wem Rural Parish Council and Shropshire Council met with Shropshire Council and Mouchel Contractors to warn of the severe disruption that will be created and to request alternative plans. The contractors explained that no alternative was possible because they could not do the work by single carriageway closure as the width of the road would not allow enough space to close half of it and leave remaining room for the workforce to work safely.

A diversion system will be put in place which means that traffic travelling from the east and wishing to access the west (Town) side of the closure, which includes Wem Industrial Estate, the Round Meadow development and the Caravan Park, will have to travel through the town centre.

Councillors made the contractors aware that as well as increasing traffic through the town centre, including larger vehicles aiming for the Industrial Estate, the closure would add to the potential congestion through the level crossing if

the barriers are down for any length of time.

Two weeks before the works start, electronic roadside signs will be placed to give advance warning of the closure. Councillors were able to get agreement that "access only" signs will be placed at the entrance to Church Lane, Lee Brockhurst, and Barkers Green to prevent vehicles trying to reach Soulton Road via the unsuitable minor roads through via Aston and Church Lane (and over the recently refurbished Aston Bridge).

Concern was also raised about access for emergency services, the response being "Emergency vehicles are permitted full access through the works at any time. All emergency services are informed about road works. It is a condition of the Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders to permit emergency vehicles through the works at any time."

Full details of the closure and diversions can be found on our website www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk.

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COUNCIL NEWS

NEW COUNCILLOR FOR EDSTASTON WARD

The Parish Council would like to extend a very warm welcome to Cath Coppinger our newest elected (uncontested) councillor. Cath has a background in local government and will be a great asset to the parish council.

Cath's contact details can be found on the back page.

GRANTS AWARDED 2014/2015

At the January meeting applications were considered and grants awarded to the following organisations:

Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery
Wem Rural Responders
1st Wem Scout Group
Edstaston Village Hall
Newtown Community and Recreation Association
Newtown Parish Church

CO-OPTION

The Parish Council is looking to co-opt a councillor for the Newtown ward of Wem Rural.

Details of the co-option process can be found here: www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/parish-councillor-vacancies/ or contact the Parish Clerk on 01948 710672 email clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk.

Applications in writing on or before 31 March 2015.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

In response to recommendations by businesses in Wem Rural's Community Plan the Parish Council is aiming to compile a business and services directory to improve business-to-business and business-to-consumer trade. Letters have been sent to all businesses in the parish - thank you if you have already responded.

If you would like to be included in the directory please contact the Parish Clerk on 01948 710672 or email clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk

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Want to get more active?

Walking is a great way to get fit, explore what's on your doorstep and make new friends.

Join one of our free and friendly short walks at 10am every Monday from Edinburgh House.

NEW WALKERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Walks are suitable for most fitness levels and abilities.

GRADING



Suitable for people who have not walked much before, are looking to be more active, or are returning from injury or illness. Walks are up to 30 minutes on flat ground or gentle slopes with mainly firm surfaces and no steps or stiles.



Suitable for people who are looking to increase their activity levels. The walks are between 30 and 60 minutes and may include some moderate slopes, steps, uneven surfaces and possibly stiles

For further information and walk leader training please contact Liz Evans telephone 01743 255068 or email Liz.Evans@shropshire.gov.uk



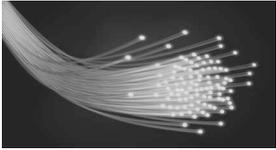
YOUR VOTE MATTERS

MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN



The way you register to vote is changing. Most people who are already registered to vote will have had a letter in July or August telling them whether they have been registered automatically on the new system.

Find out more at www.gov.uk/yourvotematters Or to register www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



CONNECTING SHROPSHIRE



Some of you may have noticed that new green telephone cabinets have been installed close by older ones. You may also have seen Openreach engineers and their vans working on them. The newer, shinier ones (cabinets, that is) are part of a major improvement in the broadband (internet) service. They are part of the £26m or so scheme, 'Connecting Shropshire', which has now reached this part of the county.

The broadband signals coming in from your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will be connected to these cabinets by fibre optic cables and will only spend the last part of their journey to your home through the copper wires. This technology is known as Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC), and will bring you superfast broadband speeds, much quicker than at present, up to 50 Mbps under the right conditions.

This is scheduled to be completed in the Wem exchange area by June 2015, and you will know when cabinets are 'live' from press announcements, and 'Fibre Broadband Is Here' stickers. However, it won't happen automatically, you will have to contact your ISP to enable the new service.

Also, and of particular note to Wem Rural residents, not all premises in an exchange area will get access to fibre based broadband because it may not be possible to build FTTC to

every cabinet for cost reasons. Also, even if your cabinet is fibre enabled, you may be too far away from it (perhaps more than 3 kilometres) to benefit from faster speeds. Therefore inevitably some of you will be disappointed.

Those that are able to take advantage of this scheme are encouraged to sign up for it, because not only will you benefit from the faster service, but also by doing so you will enable Connecting Shropshire to gain more funding, which can then be used to employ other technologies to improve the services to properties that cannot be reached by FTTC.

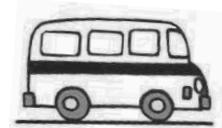
Note that there are also projects 'Optimising Business Broadband', and 'Women and Broadband Project'.

For more information, go to the Connecting Shropshire website (if you can get it!) www.connectingshropshire.co.uk where there is a lot of information including a postcode checker and map.

If that is not available to you, the address is:
Connecting Shropshire Team
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury SY2 6ND
Telephone 01743 252203



NORTH SALOP WHEELERS



In 12 years NS Wheelers Community Bus Project has grown from a small organisation in Whixall to serving the whole of North Shropshire mainly because of changes in the way local authorities are funded by Central Government. They are currently funded by Shropshire Council but only by the reimbursement of fares and without any council funding for parishioners with special needs.

From the end of this year all other funding previously received will run out and they will have to stop all social welfare services because there will no longer be resources to cover the costs of rigorous checking and maintenance essential to keep the welfare-dedicated vehicles safe and fit

for purpose.

NS Wheelers actually need as little as £90 per week to provide their current service. You can help by sponsoring a bus or pledging cash.

To find out more about the North Salop Wheelers and their community Bus Project or to volunteer your services please contact John Harrison directly on 01948 880037 or by email js.harrison@btinternet.com.

Their website is www.northsalopwheelers.co.uk where you can find the area covered by their service.

GOAL COMMUNITY GROUP

FREE COMPUTER LESSONS FOR PEOPLE OVER 55 AND THE DISABLED IN THE WEM AND WEM RURAL AREA

GOAL uses the very comprehensive Learn My Way programme to teach basic and online IT activities, including using Ipads and tablets.

If you are over 55 or disabled and want to catch up with the communications of the modern world please contact Phil Moyse or just turn up at The Castle in Wem on Tuesday mornings and your details will be taken and placed on the waiting list.

If you know of anyone who is house-bound through age/disability and may be interested please let Phil Moyse and GOAL know.

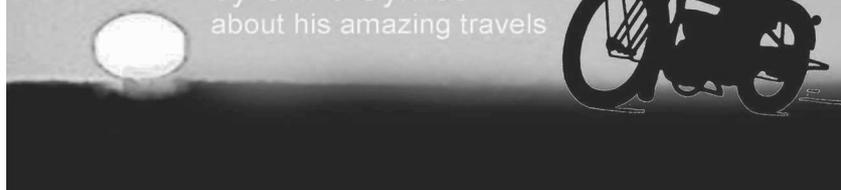
GOAL is also looking for volunteers to help with its community activities.

Phil Moyse
01939 233533

"Drinking Pepsi Cola along the Silk route to the Chinese border, finding Iran a revelation with most friendly people, reaching the junction point of three of the mightiest mountain ranges in the world in the Himalayas...."

Turn right at the Rising Sun

A talk and slide show
by Chris Symes
about his amazing travels



Edstaston Village Hall
Saturday 28th February
7.30pm

Tickets £10

(family ticket 2 adults and 2 children £24)

includes a fabulous hotpot supper
BAR

Tickets available from Bev Horsley bev@ryebank.co.uk or 01939 232956
Elaine Brown elb@thomasadams.co.uk or 01939 233891,
or any other committee member
Sandra Price, Bev Gee, Carolyn Shingler, Liz Vernon, Neale Sadler,
Don Gregory, Pippa or Kevin Brown

RAISING FUNDS FOR EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL

For many people in Shropshire there is no easy alternative to using the car, but now there is an easy way to take the sting out of the cost of driving, and it's **FREE**.

In partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council, Shropshire Council has launched Shropshare, a county-wide car-share initiative which is free to join and use for individuals and organisations alike. Shropshare allows you to easily look for people travelling in the same direction with whom to share your journey.

Once you've registered on www.shropshare.co.uk the database will check your details and preferences to create a list of potential sharers i.e. people who live near you or on your route and who match your preferences. You can then contact people from the list and make a car sharing arrangement that works for you all.

Carshare Shropshire and Telford
www.shropshare.co.uk



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WEM RURAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

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BUDGET 2015/2016

The Community Plan was adopted in October 2013 and the Parish Council has been working on identified action points. A full monitoring report can be found on the Council's website but this is a flavour of what took place in 2014:

The Community Plan is now widely available. It is accessible on the Parish Council's website and hard copies have been sent to Shropshire Council members and named departments, Wem Town Council, local schools, community groups and other organisations.

Access to information was a key requirement ranging from promoting where local information can be found to lobbying Shropshire Council for better broadband supply. The Council has worked with Shropshire Council Library Service to promote local services by publicising them in the Rural Review and including links on the Parish Council website. The Council has regularly monitored the progress of improved broadband through meeting with Shropshire Council and requesting an update presentation by the Programme Manager of Connecting Shropshire at the Council's December 2014 meeting (see report on page 4).

Improvement to local communication was addressed with a new Parish Council website and a more regular and comprehensive Rural Review.

Parish events were organised such as the Crime Awareness and Prevention Day in July, with the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team, and the very successful Cycle Safari to Wem Moss in September. Unfortunately, the planned joint litter pick of Newtown with the Primary School did not take place due to bad weather.

The Council will soon be agreeing new initiatives for this year. The best way to keep up to date is through the website www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk.

Since October the Council has discussed its Budget for the next financial year and a number of different considerations have had to be taken into account. One being that Shropshire Council has withdrawn the element previously paid under the Council Tax Support Grant. Last year this amounted to £699.

In addition, the work the Clerk carries out to support the Council and the community has increased significantly this current year. Some of this work was expected and planned for but there have been tasks which were not foreseen and could not be deferred or refused.

The Council wishes to serve the whole community to the best of its ability so it was agreed at the Council's January meeting to increase the Precept (the amount raised from Council Tax payers) to £21,000 from £17,800.

In coming to this decision, the Council reviewed the impact of the increase in monetary terms for tax payers. For a Council Tax Band D taxpayer the annual cost will now be £32.83 or 63p per week, an increase from an annual cost of £28.21 or 55p per week.

The alternative was to withdraw the amount allocated to Community Grants and reduce the content and / or number of editions of the Rural Review.

The Council believes in supporting local community groups which deliver valuable services to residents and also providing regular communication at a local level so an increase in the Precept was agreed. Details of the 2015/16 Budget are available on the Parish Council's website under the Financial Information section.

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WemSwimming
and LifeStyleCentre

**FIND THE CURRENT SWIMMING POOL TIMETABLE
ON OUR NEW WEBSITE**

www.wemswimmingandlifestylecentre.org.uk

 Friends of Wem Pool

SUPPORT Change4Life's SUGAR SWAPS CAMPAIGN



Help children improve their long-term health

It's surprising how much sugar there is in some of the things that we give our children throughout the day, from the cereal they have for breakfast, drinks during the day, snacks after school and puddings after a meal.

This campaign led by Public Health England is calling on families to sign up for 'Sugar Swaps' between January and March 2015. The campaign aims to help families cut down on their sugar intake by making simple food and drink swaps at key occasions throughout the day.

The Breakfast Swap

sugary cereal swapped for plain cereal e.g.
whole-wheat biscuit cereal

The Drink Swap

from sugary drinks to sugar-free
or no-added-sugar drinks or water

The After School Swap

e.g. from muffins to fruited teacake

The Pudding Swap

e.g. from ice cream to low-fat
lower-sugar yoghurt

Another way to cut back on sugar when you are shopping is to look at the nutritional colour coded front of pack labels and go for more greens and ambers and fewer reds.

Why is too much sugar so bad?

Eating and drinking too much sugar means extra calories which causes fat to build up inside the body. This can lead to heart disease, some cancers or type 2 diabetes later in life.

In Shropshire 23.5% of children start school either overweight or obese. This then becomes 30.3% for those in their last year of primary school. Children who are overweight or obese when they are young are far more likely to become overweight or obese adults and these figures demonstrate the increasing need to address children's diet and limit future health problems.

Sugar can also have a devastating impact upon dental health, an integral part of overall health. Tooth decay was the most common reason for hospital admissions for children aged five to nine in 2012-2013. 28% of 5 year olds in England have tooth decay and of these, 24% have five or more teeth affected. When children are not healthy this affects their ability to learn, thrive and develop.

What you can do

Register for your FREE Sugar Swaps pack at www.sugarswaps.change4life.co.uk. The pack will arrive by post and is filled with hints, tips and recipe suggestions designed to help parents cut down the sugary foods and drinks consumed by their children, plus money-off vouchers, swap cards and stickers.

In Issue 12 October's Rural Review we used a Meres and Mosses news report as the basis for our article Wem Moss News which stated "In addition to the piling placement, the access track onto Wem Moss has also been improved to not only allow easier vehicular access to the site but also foot access for visitors to Wem Moss."

We have since been told that the land around Wem Moss is owned by a third party and access to Wem Moss is via a right of way - FOOTPATH ONLY WITH NO VEHICULAR ACCESS. The concrete track leads only to private houses and does not give vehicle access to Wem Moss. Visitors arriving by car should ensure they park safely along the highway (without causing any obstruction) before proceeding along the footpath to Wem Moss.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this misinformation.



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
Bev Horsley	01939 232956	Ryebank Farmhouse, near Wem SY4 5RA
Pete Slack	01939 236990	Fairview, 7 Paddol Green, Wem SY4 5QZ

NEWTOWN

VACANCY

Bev Gee	01939 233120	Holly Bank, Foxholes, Wem SY4 5UJ
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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
3 February 2015

Tuesday
3 March 2015

Tuesday
7 April 2015

Tuesday
5 May 2015

Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday
21 April 2015

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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