



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 17 July 2016

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Rural Review

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WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that I write this, my first 'Welcome' note, for the Rural Review. I took over the chairmanship of Wem Rural Parish Council at our meeting in May with Pete Slack also taking on the role of Vice Chair. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Wilton-Morgan and Len Staines for their sterling work as Chair and Vice Chair respectively over the last few years. I hope Pete and I can support Parishioners and the Council to the same high standards.

I am pleased to report that in July we filled one of the two Councillor vacancies when we welcomed back Bob Parsons who was successfully elected as one of the Councillors supporting the Edstaston Ward. Bob had previously served on the Council and we are all looking forward to working with Bob again and utilising his breadth of experience in local government at what is a challenging time for us all.

This edition of the Rural Review is packed with news on recent events held locally and a wide range of subjects which have an impact across our Parish. I hope you find this information useful. If you do have any additional issues of concern in the Parish please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk or one of your local Councillors and we will do our best to help with the problem.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Newhampton Schools Federation for their regular updates to the Parish Council as they applied for their new status and congratulate them on achieving federation status. Their first update following federation is included inside.

Jon Murgatroyd
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council



**Her Majesty
The Queen's
90th Birthday
Celebrations**

**Full report
inside**



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday June 12 Wem celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday in style starting at 11am with a parade from Leek Street to St Peter's and St Paul's Church for a United Church Service of Thanksgiving. The High Street and the shops along the route were gaily decorated with Union Flags putting everyone in a festive mood.

The parade was led by a sole piper playing wonderful Scottish marching music followed by the Carnival and Snow Queens, the Town Council, 1st Wem Scout Group and Wem Fire Service before arriving at the church for an inspiring service to celebrate the Queen's birthday. After this, the parade marched to the Recreation Ground where everyone was welcomed by the Mayor of Wem, Cllr Rosemary Dodd, who along with Cllr Peter Broomhall from Wem Rural PC took the salute from all those in the parade and the Parade Marshall, Ian Thompson led the rousing three cheers for the Queen. The parade was then

officially dismissed and the afternoon's entertainment was handed over to compere Tim Bamford.

The weather was very kind to us with the rain mostly keeping away and there was a good turnout on the Rec. Everyone was thoroughly entertained by the many different performances taking place on the stage, visiting the numerous and varied stalls, sampling the delicious refreshments on offer, having fun on the fairground rides and enjoying their picnics. The celebrations finished at 4.30pm with everyone having had a really great time.

Special thanks to DR and FA Ford for supplying the trailers, to Sue Holliday for organising the stalls and rides, and to Sue Thomas, Wem Town Council and Wem Rural Parish Council for putting everything together.

Cllr Tim Wilton-Morgan



HIGHWAYS UPDATE



Community Concerns

Registering a 'Community Concern' under Shropshire Council's Road Safety Policy is one way the Parish Council can bring to the attention of Shropshire Council's Highways Team and the Police issues with our local roads. Councils can register up to 15 concerns each year for consideration.

If successful the concern can be addressed in various ways; this could include highway design and speed management, highway maintenance or driver behaviour through training and publicity.

So far this year the Parish Council has put forward speeding issues along Aston Road (a joint concern with Wem Town Council) and the extension of the 30mph speed limit to the eastern side of the entrance of the Wem Industrial Park. We hope they will be given favourable consideration.

Last year's concerns included: Pepper Street Quina Brook, Ossage Lane, Lowe Hill, Newtown and Palms Hill. We await their results.

If you have any new concerns please let your Councillor know.

B5063 Barkers Green / Tilley Green Junction

Users of this junction will know how difficult it is to negotiate especially during the summer months when visibility is hampered by the hedges.

However, good news!! The Parish Council has been talking to the owner of the land on the Palms Hill side of Tilley Green and he has agreed to remove some the hedgerow to improve visibility. Before any work could commence the Parish Council had to apply for permission to remove the hedge. Permission was granted this month.

We will have to wait until later in the year to remove the hedge to allow any nesting birds to vacate.

The Parish Council thanks the landowner for his generosity and support with this matter.

ROUND MEADOW RESIDENTS REVIEW

Friday 8 July was one of those rare occasions so far (at the time of writing) when we had a sunny summer's day. The play area at Round Meadow was bathed in warm sunshine as the venue for residents to gather around a gazebo and have their say to representatives of Severnside Housing and the Parish Council. The event was centred around a questionnaire to be completed, with light refreshments and a 'goodie bag' for the children. Respondents were entered into a prize draw which included £50 voucher from Co-op Wem, 2 Family Swim passes from Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre and Family Cinema Ticket from Wem Town Hall — thank you to those organisations .

What came over clearly was the strong sense of community that has developed over the last year or so, families enjoying the lovely homes and environment that the project has provided. It was also the opportunity for residents to highlight any concerns. One of the main ones was the need for some suitable equipment in the play area. The Parish Council is actively working to address this, in consultation with residents.

Thanks to all who contributed to making the event such a success, it was good to meet and get to know those living in Round Meadow, and particular thanks to them for participating and sharing their views.

Cllr Len Staines

Spotlight On: Shropshire Councillor Pauline Dee

Every 4 years, all County, Town and Parish Councillors must step down from their roles and all residents have the opportunity to consider standing as a Councillor. This 4 yearly event is called a 'normal election' and will take place next May. In preparation for this process, Rural Review begins a series of articles on what is involved in being a Councillor and the role of Councils. We start with asking Shropshire Cllr Pauline Dee about her role within Wem Rural Parish.

"I have been a Governor of Newtown CE Primary School for several years and have been co-opted as a Governor to the Newhampton C of E Schools Federation. This has enabled me to get to know parents and children when I attend events at the school. For many years I have held weekly surgeries on Thursday mornings (except when Council meetings are held) so I can meet residents from across the Wem Division. I have always made myself available for people to visit or phone me at home.

I attend as many Wem Rural Parish Council meetings as possible to keep up to date with their work for the residents they represent. It can be very rewarding working together to see how, by cooperating, we can make improvements in our environment and communities, particularly with the shortfall in funding for local services."



NORTH SALOP WHEELERS

Many Parish residents will be aware of and use the Community Transport Group, North Salop Wheelers. Based in Whixall, they provide a service for residents who do not have access to other means of transport i.e. car, train or bus service. They operate 4 days a week covering Wem, Whitchurch, Ellesmere, Market Drayton and the villages and hamlets in between.

What you may not be aware of is that their London Cab and Minibus are available for hire by community groups on a driver or self-drive basis. The Wheelers need £5,000 funding each year to maintain their invaluable service and this may be a practical way of solving your need and donating to this 'not for profit' organisation.

The Wheelers are currently looking to expand by taking on the service from Market Drayton to Telford which is being cut by Telford and Wrekin Council. This would assist people needing to visit the Princess Royal Hospital of the Magistrates Court. Telford is now the only Magistrates' Court following the closure of Shrewsbury Magistrates' Court.

For more information on The Wheelers go to their website: www.northsalopwheelers.co.uk or phone 01948 880037

NEWHAMPTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS FEDERATION UPDATE

Federation of local schools update

July 2016

What is a Federation?

Under the Education Act of 2002, schools and local authorities can propose that between two and five schools join together to create a federation. A federation is a group of two or more schools with a single governing body. It is a way of bringing schools closer together. The schools then combine their governing bodies into just one governing body for the federation. This allows the federating schools to pool resources and leadership and teaching expertise.

Included in strategic vision of the Federation for 2017

The newly formed single Governing Body of Newtown C of E Primary School and Welshampton C of E Primary School includes members who bring a set of skills and expertise that enables each of the schools to fulfil part of their strategic vision of our schools – ensuring that each pupil is given the opportunity to reach their full potential within an environment of excellent education and care; according to their very own aspirations, unique needs and abilities.



Newtown children who have produced exemplary work in partnership with the adults in their home - their project this Half Term was "The Road to Rio"

Home Learning Opportunities at Newtown

- Parents / carers have been supporting their children to produce a project this half term
- Project display for school community on 14th July
- Children share what they have learnt with pride and a sense of achievement

What the schools instil through their vision

Welshampton

An aspirational school
Achieving excellence in learning
Building a secure environment
Promoting British values
Pupil wellbeing and resilience
Relationship with the community

Newtown — R.A.I.S.E.

Respect
Achieve
Independence
Self-esteem
Excellence

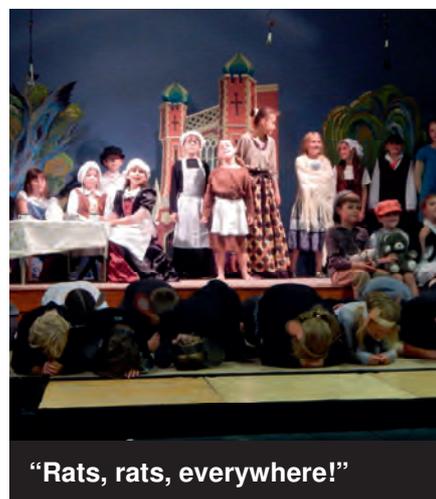
“This is an opportunity for children in our local community to continue to access a sustainable and outstanding education driven by a board of governors who are committed to ensuring the strategic vision is achievable in our ever developing educational climate ...” Camilla Bruce, Chair of Governors

Welshampton’s Production

The children excelled at their performance of ‘The Pied Piper’. There were so many stars of the show and some very talented musicians, actors and actresses: Dame Dot thought that she was ‘a walkin’ down the street’ lookin’ glam.....The Pied Piper was the saviour of the day when he (she) returned all the village children.... And as for those rats and cats...!!

Parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and friends ‘laughed out loud’ at the very subtle ‘cheesy’ comedy half way through the show (What did the cheese say when he looked at himself in the mirror? Hallou meeee!!!!)

The school’s slogan of “A small school where big things happen” was certainly the case and we all thoroughly enjoyed each moment. Welshampton has yet again surpassed their reputation of fantastic end of year school plays.



Have your say on plans for a new electricity line for North Shropshire

- **New overhead line needed to support and enable growth in North Shropshire**
 - **Communities have important role in developing the line route**
 - **Stage One Consultation open from 29th June to 9th September 2016**
-

SP Energy Networks is planning to invest £18m in order to support and enable growth across North Shropshire. This investment is to reinforce the electricity distribution network by constructing an overhead 132,000 volt wooden pole line from Oswestry substation, located at the A5/A495 roundabout, to Wem substation, located on Ellesmere Road, Wem.

This line will provide capacity to support development on land allocated for new jobs and homes in Oswestry, Whitchurch and Wem in current planning forecasts to 2026.

Route for the new line

SP Energy Networks need to find a suitable route for the new electricity distribution line. Feedback from the local community will play an important role in assisting them to establish the final line route.

They have carried out a considerable amount of investigatory work to look at and consider the location of communities, heritage features and other sensitive areas. From these investigations SP Energy Networks have developed a number of proposed routes that seek to either avoid or mitigate impacts on these areas. Section 4 of the route from Loppington to Wem includes an option for the final route.

SP Energy Networks have opened a consultation to enable people living in the area to have their say about the proposals. This is stage one of a two stage consultation. They will use the feedback together with their assessments to establish the most appropriate route in order to reinforce the North Shropshire electricity distribution network. Your views really can influence our work, so you are encouraged to take part in this consultation process.

How to find out more:

Visit www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire
As well as the map of the route and options you will find the following reference documents:
Strategic Options Report, Route Corridor Report and Line Route Report

How to provide your feedback:

Fill out a feedback form online at the website
Phone 0800 804 466
Email enquiries@spennorthshropshire.co.uk

BROADBAND UPDATE

A BIG thank you to all those who responded to our mailing asking for support with the Parish Council's project to improve broadband within the Parish.

We received sufficient responses to allow BT to put the project forward to Openreach and it is now being assessed. We are hoping for feedback from BT towards the end of September 2016.

We will provide you with updates as soon as possible.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND SERVICES

You may have read in the local press that, as part of reducing costs, Shropshire Council are actively encouraging Town and Parish Councils to take on assets and services. There are no assets within Wem Rural (eg buildings, green spaces etc) but, it is expected in due course, the Parish Council will be asked to consider taking on some environmental tasks (eg verge cutting).

As with any transfer of this kind there would be on-going costs which would lead to an increase of the Precept, the amount paid by council tax payers, to the Parish Council. The Council would explore ways to keep these costs to a minimum, for example, working with neighbouring councils. However, prior to any decision being taken the Council would seek the views of Parishioners.

We will keep you updated through this newsletter.

Are You A Carer?

Caring for someone else's needs can be both very stressful and isolating. There are services available to help you and other carers across Shropshire look after their own needs as well as the needs of those you care for.

You may already be a registered carer, but even if not, you might need support in the future, or have a friend or relative for whom this might be an issue, so this could be important.

Carers registered with Shropshire Rural Community Council (RCC), will already know that earlier this year there was a change in the way some services are provided. In particular the Carers Support Service has transferred to Carers Trust 4 All.

It's easy to think that with government cuts in funding of many types of provision, and the increasing care needs in our communities, support for carers could be at risk. However, there are a number of services RCC continues to provide. Just as an example, there is the iCare Card Scheme, where if you are an unpaid carer you can apply for a discount card for over 40 businesses in Shropshire. The RCC also provides information and advice to people who care for family members, friends and neighbours through a Support Line **on 01743 341995** from Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. Enquiries range from social services, equipment, finance, care homes, holidays and leisure, care at home and many more. You can be referred for benefits checks and signpost to specialist organisations where necessary. Note also that Shropshire RCC doesn't only support carers. There are other services provided for the wider community that you may find useful. If you want to find out more, see below.

In addition, as part of Shropshire Council's 'Get Involved' initiative, its Health and Wellbeing Board has launched a consultation involving a Draft Strategy for supporting carers, proposing six Priorities for carers. Alongside that is a survey seeking views on the strategy. All Parish Councils in Shropshire have been asked to publicise this project, and particularly in rural parishes, where carers might feel more need for support, it is hoped that as many parishioners as possible will come forward to complete the questionnaire.

Contact information – and don't worry if you can't easily access the internet, there are phone numbers as well:

Shropshire Council Draft Strategy:

<https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/draft-carers-strategy-for-shropshire/>

Sally Wagg, Health & Wellbeing Administrator/Project Support

Tel: 01743 253988 (ext.3988)

Shropshire Rural Community Council:

<http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/>

Tel: 01743 360641

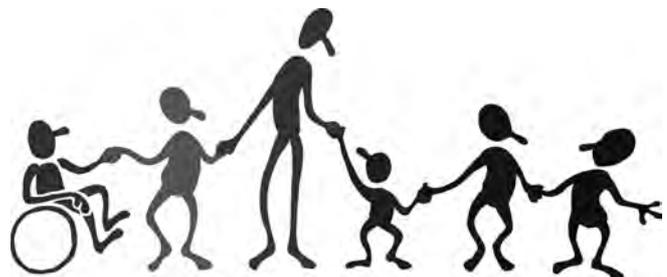
Carers Trust 4all

<http://www.carerstrust4all.org.uk/shropshire.html>

shropshire.html

Telephone: 0333 323 1990

Email: shropshire@carerstrust4all.org.uk





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
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
Trevor Hayward	01939 233400	Oakhurst, The Lowe, Wem, SY4 5UE

WEM

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
2 August 2016

Tuesday
6 September 2016

Tuesday
4 October 2016

Tuesday
1 November 2016

Tuesday
5 December 2016

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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