



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 21 November 2017

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Rural Review

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

The Parish Council are looking to finalise our future 'Development Policy' for the whole Parish in the next couple of months. This review ties in with a wider review of planning policy being carried out by Shropshire Council as they look to agree a 'Local Plan' for the period to 2036. To aid us in our decision making we would be grateful if you would complete the very short on-line survey highlighted in the article below. All responses will be considered, along with the responses received from Parishioners to our on-line survey carried out in February 2017, and will influence our decision making at our December meeting. This is your opportunity to help shape future development in the Parish!

As this is our last publication before the end of the year I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all at Wem Rural Parish Council, to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and New Year.

Jon Murgatroyd, Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

Development in the Parish and Wem Relief Road

Development on the Parish

In the February 2017 edition of Rural Review we explained Shropshire Council is reviewing its planning policies (known as the Local Plan) and enclosed a Housing Need Survey. The results of the survey was reported back to you in the July 2017 newsletter.

Shropshire Council is now at the stage of consulting on its Preferred Options for the revised planning policies. The focus for residential development is now Shrewsbury and the market towns with less development in the rural areas. Development in the rural areas will centre on Hubs, those villages where services already exist and need supporting. 40 Hubs have been identified by Shropshire Council. Smaller scale development, up to 3 dwellings per site, can take place in settlements which are put forward by Parish Councils. These settlements are known as Clusters in the planning policies.

The Parish Council is aware that there is support for some limited development in our villages and hamlets of Northwood, Newtown, Edstaston, Quina Brook, Aston and Tilley. At the December Council meeting we will be debating whether any villages in the Parish should be nominated within a Wem Rural Cluster. We therefore

encourage residents to review Shropshire Council's 'Preferred Options' and let us know your views. Use this link to access the documents: <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/local-plan-review-preferred-scale-and-distribution-of-development/> The pages relevant to the Rural Policies are 25 to 34.

Wem Relief Road

You will recall that over the past couple of years research has been carried out on the volume of traffic going through Wem. Recently, our local MP, Rt Hon Owen Paterson, has encouraged discussion on a Wem Relief Road. The Parish Council has been included in those discussions with the MP, Shropshire Council and Wem Town Council.

We would like to know your views on a Wem Relief Road. Do you think it is necessary? Do you have any other suggestions to alleviate the impact of traffic on the town centre?

We need to know your views on these 2 key issues

Please give us your feedback either direct to your local Councillor or through the on-line questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wemruralparish>

Broadband Update

At the November meeting of the Parish Council, Ben Walker, from Connecting Shropshire, gave a presentation on the deployment of fibre and superfast broadband in the Parish. Key points are reproduced below:

Wem Rural Contract 1 and 2 Summary:

Contract 1 (completed June 2017)

- ◆ 16 fibre structures built serving parish premises
- ◆ Take-up to date (Roden Ward) 30% premises
- ◆ Superfast broadband (24Mbps) 193 premises
- ◆ Fibre broadband but not superfast (2-24Mbps) 239 premises
- ◆ Remainder = 139 premises

Contract 2 (due to complete summer 2018)

- ◆ 5 cabinets planned to serve around 100 premises:
- ◆ Edstaston (March delivery)
- ◆ Souldon Road (cabinet stood)
- ◆ Horton (went live October)
- ◆ Wolverley (cabinet stood)
- ◆ Coton (cabinet stood)

Contract 3 Summary

- ◆ £11.7, 'open' procurement
- ◆ 16,000 premises not projected to have access to >30 Mbps by 2019
- ◆ July 2017 contract awarded to Airband Community Internet Ltd
- ◆ Total value of contract awarded £11.2m
- ◆ Expected coverage will be 14,000 over 3 years, split into 5 phases
- ◆ By end of Contract 3, and with commercial projections, 98% coverage
- ◆ Gap at end of Contract 3 estimated at 1,845 premises
- ◆ Planning process started to install masts

You can view the broadband coverage map and see whether your home will be connected by Airband

<https://shropshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ddc8d72666934ca4ab4f938050be4ee4>

Airband expect to offer a range of broadband packages starting at around £10 per month (basic superfast package) and increasing to around £42 per month (superfast homemaker package)

The Tree Charter

We know that trees are much appreciated and loved by our residents. You may be interested in a new initiative the Tree Charter.

The call for a Tree Charter was initiated in 2015 by the Woodland Trust in response to the crisis facing trees and woods in the UK. There was no clear, unifying statement about the rights of people in the UK to the benefits of trees, woods and forests. The UK's trees and woods face a number of issues including low planting rates; lack of legal protection and declining interest in forestry and arboriculture careers.

A new approach was needed that could unite individuals and specialist organisations, and help them speak with one voice. It was important to ensure the role of trees and woods in our lives could be visible and recognised in decision-making and practice. On 6 November 2017 the new Charter for Trees, Woods and People was launched. You can find out more on the Tree Charter website:

<https://treecharter.uk/home.html>



Help Us End Loneliness in Your Area

Do you need to talk?

Do you feel lonely and would you like someone to talk to?

Are you a good listener?

Do you have time to help support others? Do you have life experiences others may benefit from?

Would you like to make a difference?

Volunteer Befrienders support and help to reduce social isolation

Become a Chatterbox befriender for just *an hour a week*. Receive training and ongoing support

"(My) client brightened up as we talked"



Have you lost social contact? Would you like some **FREE support?**

Our telephone befrienders can help you:

- connect with your community
- find and access sources of help and information
- feel heard and supported

"Chatterbox is such a positive experience for me, I really look forward to my calls"



01743 245 088
www.omega.uk.net
chatterbox@omega.uk.net
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 [omega.chatterbox](#)

Wem Youth Club

Wem Youth Club members have been fundraising in order to staff a second evening for younger children and attend to urgent maintenance of their Leek Street building.

In response to a 50% grant cut from long-term funders Wem Town Council and a growing need for safe play, the Club has raised over £9,000 for a 12-month Lottery Awards for All project which will pay for digital arts, crafts, visits, training and the launch of Youth Club Juniors. Other smaller grants in the past 12 months were raised from Wem Rotary Club, West Midlands Co-Op and the Rural Community Council and have been used to replace old equipment and to staff holiday-time activities.

Sue Challis, Club Co-Chair, commented: 'We aim to keep the Club cheap (£1 a week) and provide a quality, safe place for all children in Wem and surrounds. At the same time, we will spend grants locally wherever possible'.

The Club is run by - and is looking for - volunteers. 12-15 year olds meet Wednesdays 6-8pm and 7-11 year olds on Tuesdays 5.30-7.30pm. Wem Youth Club is supported by SCC and affiliated to Shropshire Youth Association.

Sue Challis, Co-Chair, Wem Youth Club

Wem Christmas Lights & Festival

Friday 1st December

**Late night shopping with
"Three Kings" on Camels**

Lantern Parade from Jubilee Square to
St Peter and St Paul's Church



- 5:00pm Shops open. Rotary sleigh and Father Christmas in Jubilee Square.
- 5:20pm St Peter and St Paul's Church. Green Tim Bamford ready to greet Parade and camels.
- 5:45pm Town Crier, camels and Three Kings Parade start from Jubilee Square. Kings give gifts to Joseph and Mary
- 6:00pm St Peter's Choir (Church Green)
- 6:15pm Thomas Adams Choir (Church Green)
- 6:30pm Crowning Snow Queen and blessing the town by Rev. Nick Heron. Mayor's speech. **Light Switch On** (Church Green)
- 6:45pm Shawbury Military Wives Choir (Church Green)
- 7:15pm Wem Jubilee Band and Baptist Church Choir (Wem Town Hall)
- 7:30pm Wem Community Choir (Wem Town Hall)
- 7:45pm Grand Raffle Draw (Wem Town Hall)

**Road Closures will take place during
the parade to the Church**

Parish Council Budget 2018/19

In November every year, the Parish Council starts its discussions around finances for the following year. It has to consider unavoidable increases in costs, special projects for the year and any one-off costs and how these will all be funded.

The Council would welcome your input to the 2018/19 Budget. Take a look around the Parish. Do you have any suggestions in how the local environment could be improved? Are there any projects that would help local community groups or businesses?

Please let your local Councillor or the Clerk know your thoughts. The Council is funded by public funds — your money, so you should have a say in how the Council spends it!

Community Grants

Within this year's financial budget, the Parish Council put aside a small amount of funds to help local community groups. There are agreed criteria and application form which can be obtained from the Clerk. Completed applications must be submitted by 31 December and will be considered at the January Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council has helped Morton Playing Field Association with a Community Grant to help with the additional grass cutting following re-seeding of the Playing Field. Can your community group benefit from a grant?

All applications will be considered on their individual merits. The final decision on assessment of applications and the level of any grant offered lies with Oswestry Rural Parish Council.

Spot a Pot Hole?

Contact Shropshire Council on
0345 678 9006
or email:
customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk
or report it on-line at
<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/report/>



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
Ruth Williams	01939 233389	Pool Cottage, Poolhead, Wem SY4 5QY
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
Stella Whyte	01948 710302	Grange Villa, Northwood, Wem, SY4 5NP

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
5 December 2017

Tuesday
2 January 2018

Tuesday
6 February 2018

Tuesday
6 March 2018

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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