



# Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council  
Issue 22 February 2018

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## Rural Review

is produced by  
Wem Rural Parish Council  
Orchard Cottage  
Rowe Lane  
Welshampton  
SY12 0QB

For further  
information  
please contact  
Carole Warner on  
01948 710672  
email:  
clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk  
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

**WELCOME** to the latest edition of the Rural Review.

I am pleased to report that we now have a full complement of 12 Parish Councillors supporting the Parish. We are pleased to welcome Georgia Bruce who was co-opted to the council at our meeting in December 17 and joins us as one of the youngest Councillors in the County.

We are holding our Annual Parish Meeting on the 3 April at 7pm at Edinburgh House, Wem. All Parishioners are welcome to attend and raise any questions or concerns that they have in relation to the Parish. If there are any topics that you would like us to cover at this meeting please let our Parish Clerk know and we will add these to the meeting agenda. We do very much hope that you will be able to join us.

We hope that you find the information covered in this edition of the Rural Review useful. If there are any news items or issues in the parish that you would like us to cover in future editions of this newsletter please contact the Parish Clerk to discuss.

Jon Murgatroyd,  
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council



## WEMECONOMICFORUM

Some of you may not have heard of the Wem Economic Forum before. It is a body made up of representatives from Councils (Wem Rural, Wem Town and Shropshire), local businesses and community groups. The primary aim is to strengthen the economic base of Wem Town and Wem Rural Parish.

In January WEF re-launched (with a new logo, thanks to a Parish resident) following commitments of funding from the Wem Rural and Wem Town Councils. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8 March and will approve projects to work on for the year. If you are part of a local business, self employed or a community group within Wem Town or Wem Rural, come along to the meeting and see what we do!

Full details about WEF can be found on the Parish Council's website or by contacting the Parish Clerk.

## Local Council Award Scheme

Wem Rural Parish has achieved the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme. During October 2017, Cllr Len Staines and the Parish Clerk, Carole Warner met with an Accreditation Board at Shirehall. The Panel's comments about the Council included: The Panel applaud you on a number of areas and was impressed by your high level of involvement in working with the community and other local authorities.

The certificate confirming the Award was presented to the Council in January. Full details of the Award Scheme can be found on the Parish Council's website.



# Planning Policies

We have reported previously that Shropshire Council are currently reviewing its Planning Policies. The Parish Council has followed the review and given its opinions at each stage of the process so far. The latest consultation closed on 22 December 2017.

The Parish Council reviewed the suggested policies, the results from the Housing Needs Survey and other responses from residents. On balance, the Parish Council supported the principle of development in Wem Rural Parish. The Parish Council requested the Parish be classed as a 'Community Cluster' comprising of Edstaston, Quina Brook, Northwood, Newtown, Tilley and Aston.

The consultation also asked for opinions on development in the market towns and employment land. The Parish Council supported residential development in Wem. Unfortunately, there is a misconception that Wem Industrial Estate is within the Town rather than the Rural Parish. The Parish Council believes the Estate has great potential to be developed and contribute to the required employment land.

## Parish Council Budget 2018/19

This year, the Parish Council increased its Precept by £1,000 to £26,000. This increase will raise the cost to a Council Tax Band D payer to £39.07 per annum or 75p per week. This is an increase of £1.37 per annum. The increase in Precept will help fund the plan to re-fresh the Community Plan and additional hours worked by the Clerk.

The Parish Council continues to financially support local groups. If you belong to a group which Wem Rural residents attend, contact your local Councillor for details.

## Community Plan Re-fresh

Back in March 2010, a group of dedicated residents got together and produced the parish Community Plan. The aim was to understand residents' views on local issues so that the Parish Council and other partners could serve the community better. Since the Plan was published in September 2013 the Parish Council has actioned as many of the issues raised as possible.

The Plan now needs up-dating. If you are interested in helping with this project please contact your local Councillor or the Parish Clerk.

## TRAFFIC UPDATE

Since the last newsletter, the Parish Council has been progressing, on behalf of residents, concerns about speeding traffic in the Parish, and in particular, Pepper Street and Shrewsbury Road.

The Parish Council requested traffic monitoring along Pepper Street and had to pay for this due to budgetary restrictions at Shropshire Council. The monitoring took place during November 2017 and included analysis of HGVs and non-HGVs. The results did not justify further action by Shropshire Council or the Police but will be a base line for any further analysis should there be any changes in circumstances. Full details of the analysis can be found on the Parish Council website.

Traffic calming measures along Shrewsbury Road have also been discussed by Shropshire Council and the safer Roads Partnership (Police) and the concerns have been passed back to Shropshire Council. Whether action is taken depends on the ranking against other areas of concerns countywide and budgets.

On a positive note, the long awaited 20mph advisory signs have been installed at Newtown School. The Parish Council is wishing to work with the School and Newtown Community and Recreation Association to achieve practical measures to relieve the congestion at drop off and pick up times.

### Wem Relief Road

Representatives of the Parish Council recently attended meetings with Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP, together with representatives of Shropshire Council and Wem Town Council. There is currently no national funding for a relief road but it was agreed to seek guidance and other funding to prepare a feasibility study. The Parish Council will continue to keep residents informed.

# Broadband Update

Some residents will be aware that Airband is installing a new broadband transmitter at the Oaklands, Edstaston and it will provide a large proportion of coverage in Wem Rural. Planning approval was granted earlier this year so works to install the transmitter will begin imminently, with an expected go live date in Spring 2018.

There are two further transmitters that provide some additional broadband coverage within the Parish, and these are also planned to go live in Spring 2018.

As works get underway, Airband will be able to provide a more accurate date for live coverage, and intend to provide Parish Council updates as and when the project progresses. Airband will also send out project newsletters and individual notifications for those that have registered interest by entering their postcode on the Airband website at [www.airband.co.uk](http://www.airband.co.uk).

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## FOCUS ON:

# Tilley, Timber and Technology

By George Nash and Alastair Reid

The sleepy hamlet of Tilley has a closely guarded secret – its historic built heritage. In 2015, local residents George Nash and Alastair Reid made an application to run an archaeological project that would delve into the history of the building stock and its medieval timber-framing tradition. The Tilley Timber Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and focused on accurately-dating thirty-five medieval and early post-medieval timber-framed buildings both within the village and the surrounding countryside (known in medieval times as the Tilley Township). This three-year fully-funded project has managed to successfully date nearly all of the timber-framed buildings within Tilley, along with isolated farmsteads. The key to the success of this project was the permission given by the home owners to creep and crawl through the numerous roof spaces and rooms looking for ideal timbers to sample. Supporting the fieldwork element of the project was a wealth of historic documentary evidence, in particular, a land ownership survey of 1561 and an estate map that dated to 1631



In 2012 an application to undertake a three-year dendrochronology project was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). During the initial research stage of the project, it was ascertained that at least 85% of all buildings within the current village, along with outlying farmsteads were present on an estate plan of 1631. Although a number of buildings have been 'modernised' over the past 500 years, usually through the use of brick, much of the principal timber-framing had survived, including ideal *in situ* candidate timbers for dendrochronological sampling. Our dendrochronologist, Dr Andy Moir

undertook all the sampling and laboratory analysis. It soon became apparent that previous estimates on the age of each building were grossly inaccurate and revealed much earlier dates than expected.

As part of our outreach programme local youth organisations became involved in several tick-box sheet surveys of each of the building. These tick-box surveys systematically recorded the main timber-framed features of the building and provide an initial date estimate based on the stylistic features present. Completed tick-box sheets were later entered onto an on-line national database, known as Building Archaeological Research Database (BARD).

The project funding has now come to end but the team are involved in pulling together all the results from the individual house survey. Interestingly, there appears to be a link between the medieval and post-medieval history of Tilley with the dates associated with the initial construction phases of each building we surveyed. Later this year we will publish our results in a booklet which is funded by our friends at the HLF.



# Wem Rural Parish Council

[www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk](http://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
Georgia Bruce	07709 065195	Greenbank Farm, 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
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](mailto:clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk)

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday  
6 March 2018

Tuesday  
3 April 2018  
Start at 7.30pm

Tuesday  
1 May 2018

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 3 April 2018  
7pm

## 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. 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.



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