



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 23 June 2018

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Rural Review

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WELCOME to the latest edition of the Rural Review.

I have been elected as the Chair of Wem Rural Parish Council for the next year and look forward to my new role. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank Jon Murgatroyd who has served as Chair for the past two years, for his hard work and expertise. I am pleased that Pete Slack will be continuing as Vice Chair and look forward to his support.

It was with great sadness that we heard about the sudden death of Mark Brothwood (NFU Agent). He was a member of the Wem Economic Forum, representing the agricultural community for many years. He was held in high regard by the Parish Council and Forum. I was especially shocked as it was only ten days before his death that that my son and I were sitting with him at our kitchen table.

All I have spoken with, are incensed by the recent news that Barclays Bank have decided (without any consultation!) to close the Wem branch because business has reduced 10% in the past two years. This will leave Wem without a bank. Business people regularly meet each other in the bank; elderly people use it as a life line. We are all driven to use online banking, travel to Whitchurch or Shrewsbury or perhaps many are confused by how they will do their banking in the future. Wem Rural Parish Council will be making very strong representations to Barclays Bank and to our local MP Owen Patterson.

Liz Vernon, Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council

Broadband update for Wem Rural Parish

Residents in Edstaston and surrounding areas have been watching the installation of the new broadband transmitter at the Oaklands. The transmitter will provide a large proportion of coverage in Wem Rural.

The latest update from Airband, the installer, is that they have been making very good progress at Oaklands. The mast is now built and the installation of Airband equipment will be undertaken over the coming week or two. Airband then have an internal two week test period to ensure everything is stable and working as expected. The site will then be made live for transmission to customers at the end of June.

If you would like to know when the mast goes live, sign up to updates from Airband, through:

<https://www.airband.co.uk/register-your-interest/?projectcode=SHROPSHIRE-LIVE>

There is no obligation to sign up as a customer.

Wem Rural Parish Council on social media

The Parish Council has launched a social media presence. We aim to be informative and relevant in posting local news and notices about our work, the Wem Economic Forum, wider Shropshire Council news and initiatives, and on matters such as road closures, Shropshire-wide NHS proposals, West Mercia Police campaigns and more. Please get in touch if you have questions for your councillors, concerns on matters we may be able to help you with or good news stories from our parish.



wemrural-pc.gov.uk



facebook.com/wemruralpc/



@wemruralpc



@wemruralpc (coming soon)

Planning

Our Parish can generate a range of applications, from a small extension on a residential house to specialist applications on specific issues. Parish Councils are one of many official consultees on most planning applications and Councillors need to understand Planning Policies to respond effectively.

Training on Planning is therefore essential for Councillors. Recently our Councillors joined with Councillors from Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council for a very interesting, informative and frank session with Shropshire's most senior planning officer, Ian Kilby, (Planning Services Manager). Although the main topics were on business related applications (start up and expansion) and conservation issues, Councillors were able to raise other matters as well.

Ian worked through a number of examples of planning applications, indicating in each case how the planning officer's report shows how the decision was reached. In the case of business applications, decisions have to be made in accordance with the Local Plan, as well as considering national policies embodied in the National Planning Policy Framework. Consultees views are important, and reasons for supporting an application are asked for as well as in cases where an objection is submitted.

In all applications, supporting documents like the Design and Access Statement are important, as well as seeking pre-planning advice. Where conservation issues are relevant, the application needs to demonstrate how it preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the building.

The two Parish Councils are grateful to Ian for his time in preparing and delivering the session, which made an important contribution to the training needs of their Councillors.



WEM ECONOMIC FORUM

Following the re-launch of the Wem Economic Forum, there is plenty of activity to report. The Forum has set up new Working Groups in addition to the Traffic Working Group.

Traffic: the Traffic Working Group held a consultation looking into schemes which would improve the traffic flow in Wem. Results of the consultation can be found on the Council's website:
<https://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/>

[wem-traffic-public-consultation/](https://www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk/wem-traffic-public-consultation/)

Market Review: A small group has been looking into ways of encouraging both stall holders and customers to the 2 markets. Watch out for new banners and flags!

Emergency Planning: Building on the Wem Evacuation Plan this group is producing a plan for Wem Town and Wem Rural plus helping businesses to set up their own plans.

WEF AGM

If you are a business, why not come along to the AGM on Thursday 12 July at 5.15pm in Edinburgh House, Wem. The Forum is there to help businesses in the Town and Rural Parish.

Wem Rural Responders

Parishioners may know that an AED (defibrillator) was installed some years ago on the wall facing the road of Robinson and Young garage. It was manned by a group of volunteers who had regular training on the use of the defibrillator, and CPR (resuscitation). Originally it was linked to a calling system connected to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS). If there was a need in the area, WMAS called volunteers in an agreed sequence, the first recipient either taking the call, or passing it on to the next.

Unfortunately, as well as there being problems with obtaining training, recently most of the volunteers have had to withdraw, for a variety of reasons. This has meant that the calling system was no longer practical, and so that has been suspended.

However, the defibrillator remains in place, and at least it is available for public use in the immediate vicinity of the garage and nearby properties. To access it, the garage shop has the code for opening the cabinet. When the shop is closed, if it is needed for an emergency, please telephone Cllr Len Staines on 01939 234415. Also, please contact me on the same number if you would like further information or are thinking of being a volunteer. If enough people are interested it might be possible to get the calling system going again.

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.

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

Edstaston Village Hall News

The Edstaston Village Hall Committee is delighted to report that plans have been submitted for much-needed improvements to the hall. It would really help if everyone who supports this could go to the council's online planning portal and submit a supportive comment. The portal is at:

<https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>

and our reference is: **18/01788/FUL**

These plans follow the generous donation by the Price family of Edstaston of land adjoining the hall. This has given us the exciting opportunity to extend the hall to provide a disabled toilet, a new entrance lobby with good disabled access, a well organised kitchen/bar area and a stage area together with plenty of storage. The rest of the land will be used as a multi-functional amenity area for summer events as well as much-needed space for overflow parking. We hope these improvements will make the hall much more widely useful and appealing to ALL members of our community.

Getting the plans approved is just the first step. The committee knows that it will take an enormous effort from the whole community to raise the funds necessary to finish the project. Edstaston Village Hall is a self-funded community facility and all the members of the committee are unpaid volunteers donating time and resources to keeping the hall alive. Any of the work we could do collectively as a community will cut the direct costs and make this project more likely to both proceed and succeed.

If you have any experience or skill that could help (such as grant and funding application experience or groundwork, building, fencing, hedging skills) or you could donate time, money or materials, or even if you would just like to be kept up to date on our progress please contact a member of the committee: Bev Horsley bev@ryebank.co.uk or 01939 232956 / Elaine Brown elb@thomasadams.net / Sandra Price 01939 232493 / Liz Vernon 01939 234896 / Don Gregory 01939 233887/ Carolyn Shingler 01939 235225 / Neale Sadler 01939 232394.

Edstaston Village Hall

has been accepted as one of Smile Amazon's chosen charities. Amazon Smile is exactly the same as Amazon - same products and prices - but

if you go to **smile.amazon.co.uk** instead of www.amazon.co.uk, sign up to Smile and then enter Edstaston Village Hall in the "Or pick your own charitable organisation:" search box Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) to

Edstaston Village Hall

(Registered Charity number 1095886).

Between 15th and 29th June Smile Amazon is offering a special triple donation rate of 1.5% - so make any purchase you can during that time

If you use Amazon, we would be really grateful if you would choose Edstaston Village Hall as your charity.

It will make a real difference to our community. If you have any question about this please contact
Bev Horsley

New Puppy and Dog Training Classes

Starting at
Edstaston Village Hall

Blackthorn Dog Training have a new 6 week Kennel Club Puppy Foundation Course starting soon – Wednesdays 6pm Edstaston Village Hall.

If your pup is 5 months or under and has completed their vaccination course then they are ready to continue their vital socialisation and training. Come and meet other puppy owners, have fun with your puppy and learn some new skills whilst training your pup to become a well-mannered and socially acceptable pet you can be proud of.

There are also 2 spaces available on the 8pm course for those 'Naughty But Nice' older dogs. You know the ones - that don't always come back when they are called or pull your arms out when you take them for a walk !!

Call Sue on 01939 235 545 or visit my website at www.blackthorndogtraining.co.uk for more info.



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
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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday
3 July 2018

Tuesday
7 August 2018

Tuesday
4 September 2018

Tuesday
2 October 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. 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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