



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 40 Spring 2023

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WELCOME.... to the Spring issue of Rural Review.

We're all pleased that spring is with us and that summer isn't far away. Our Spring review has numerous articles and contributions of interest so please read on. We've set our budget for 2023 and are looking forward to supporting more local projects through the year ahead.

I'd like to welcome Jan Hilditch and John Britton as new councillors which brings us up to full strength across our three wards. They each have skills and areas of special interest which I'm sure will benefit us all.

The recent Annual Parish Meeting was very well attended and we had a lively discussion about how broadband services should evolve across the parish and North Shropshire in the near future. When we have further details we will share them with you. Also thanks to those that contributed their personal thoughts about a variety of local topics that interest or frustrate them. Where we can help directly we will, or signpost the best route for escalation to other responsible authorities.

A few weekends ago we organised a Spring Clean around some of the rural roads in the parish. We picked up lots of litter so thanks to those that took part and supported the initiative. Please check our website (www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk) and social media for regular updates on our plans and activities.

Huw Edwards,
Chair, Wem Rural Parish Council
chair@wemrural-pc.gov.uk



Business Leaders Breakfast

If you run a business that is in the parish then Wem Rural Parish Council would like to invite you to drop in for a **FREE Breakfast from 8am-10am on Wednesday 28th June** at the Happy Café on Wem Industrial Estate.

This is an opportunity for you to meet with other business leaders and find out more about what support is available for your business.

Places are limited so please reserve your place by visiting
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk



ON BEHALF OF WEM RURAL PARISH COUNCIL WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OUR BUSINESS CONSULTATION EVENT

WEM BUSINESS LEADERS BREAKFAST

Drop in from **8am-10am** on
Wednesday 28th June 2023
at the **Happy Cafe**

Wem Industrial Estate, Souldon Road, Wem

Reserve your place at www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

Funded by FullFibre
FIBRE HEROES

This is an opportunity for you meet with other business leaders and find out more about what support is available to your business



You will receive a choice of breakfast bap and brew from 8am which you will be able to enjoy whilst talking with other businesses and support providers. Numbers are limited so please register in advance.

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

Importance of Biodiversity to Wem Rural

You may have seen recently Sir David Attenborough's series 'Wild Isles', which revealed some very worrying facts about British wildlife. For example, one-quarter of our mammal species and one-third of our bird species are at risk of extinction. Just one specific example of loss noticeable locally is that Lapwings are much less common than they used to be, perhaps you have noticed others. With only 13 percent of our land covered by woodlands we are the least forested in Europe, and half of that tree cover consists of non-native monoculture. This variety of life of animals and plants, and their habitats – **Biodiversity** - is not only important to our ecosystems, but also to humanity. It provides our food, makes oxygen, cleans our water and gives us medicines.

Threats to biodiversity, more particularly relevant locally, could be the intensification of farming, perfectly groomed fields, monoculture, habitat loss such as drainage of our wetlands, and growing pressures from urbanisation. 79% of Shropshire's land is managed for agriculture, which is 10% above the national average.

In addition, while we are very aware of the threat of global warming itself, scientists predict that loss of biodiversity could be a greater threat to humanity than climate change! The UK Government has supported the view that if we fail to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, by 2030 we increase the risk of further pandemics, rising global temperatures and loss of species. In order to prevent this, the Government is introducing the Climate and Ecology Bill. Following on from this, Shropshire Council (SC) is resolving to formally and actively support this bill. SC has set up a Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership, and Shropshire Wildlife Trust has several Nature Based Solutions for example focusing on woodlands, peatlands and wetlands. And as a Public Authority, the Parish Council also has a responsibility to conserve biodiversity, via the NERC Act 2006, and the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, from DEFRA.

So what can Wem Rural Parish Council, and parishioners, do to meet this responsibility? WRPC has already supported the SC motion to support the Climate and Ecology Bill. When we receive planning applications we will check then for biodiversity implications, although Planning Officers already do this when relevant. We will be looking to develop and strengthen the Objective in our Action Plan which currently states "To lead the community on issues related to the environment and climate change".

How can biodiversity be increased in our parish? We should all think what contribution we could make, however small. Allowing any sized patch of land to grow wild is easy, and makes less work! Wildflowers grow better on nutrient-poor soil, so if early mowing is necessary, cuttings should be removed to avoid returning nutrients to the soil. If possible, reduce the severity of hedge cutting, and only mow a verge closest to the road, taking into account road safety. As far as larger areas of grass and hay is concerned, a well-known national agricultural wholesaler accepts that adding diversity to hay production can be tricky. Wild flowers and legumes can be added to improve diversity into hay mixtures, but if included, it may be more difficult to sell it on. However, if a farmer is using hay for his own livestock it would probably be easier to include a wider range of flowering species.

So wherever you are and whatever you are doing in Wem Rural, do something for our local wildlife, and please let the Parish Council know of any examples that move forward our Action Plan, and inspire others. Thank you on behalf of the Parish Council – and the Environment.

The Great British Spring Clean

On Saturday 15th April members and parishioner got together for The Great British Spring Clean, otherwise known as litter picking up in The Lowe area!

Many thanks to the Co-op in Wem that kept the team going with bacon rolls for the morning along with the good weather!.

After clearing up the team of volunteers were then invited to the Church Hall in Wem, having been invited to join the monthly Community Lunch.



Manager at Co-op donating refreshments for volunteers taking part in The Great British Spring Clean

Climate and Ecology

The Motion to support the Climate and Ecology Bill was agreed by Parish Councillors at the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 4th April 2023.

The **Climate & Ecology Bill (2022)** formerly the CEE Bill is a plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science. The Bill is the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament that ensures a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the emergency. The Bill, which was written by scientists, experts and campaigners, was first introduced in Parliament by Caroline Lucas MP in September 2020, and now has the backing of over 150 parliamentarians representing all major political parties and has the backing of Wem Rural Parish Council.

Mental Health of Young Farmers

According to a recent by the Farm Safety Foundation 94% of UK farmers under the age of 40 rank poor mental health as one of the biggest hidden problems facing farmers today. Further research published by UK Parliament goes on to say that the covid-19 pandemic may increase mental-ill health in farming with many not being able to seek help due to rural isolation and lack of awareness.

The Agriculture Industry in Shropshire report that Shropshire has the largest number of farm holdings out of all county and has the sixth largest amount of people working in agriculture out of all county and unitary authorities, behind Devon, North Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Cornwall and Somerset making it an important issue for the local area.

Young farmers can access confidential support from Shropshire Rural Support, a small charity supported by a group of dedicated volunteers, all of whom live and are involved with rural Shropshire.

If you know someone who needs help and is potentially suicidal, doing nothing is not an option. You can contact Shropshire Rural Support via their confidential helpline on 0300 123 2825 or email them at ruth@shropshire-rural-support.org.uk



 **Shropshire Rural Support**

Call our free confidential helpline
0300 123 2825

We are here to help

- Free & confidential
- Someone who has time to listen
- Information about other sources of help
- Access to a network of knowledgeable volunteers

 **The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

 @ShropshireRuralSupport Registered Charity No. 1126085 shropshireruralsupport.org.uk

Our new Monday Craft and Chat mornings have been such fun - and truly inspiring! We've seen new faces and new crafts from mosaic to patchwork, felting and tapestry to beading, spinning and arm knitting (very briefly!). We've had 2 sessions so far with another planned for Monday 5th June (see opposite). Do come and join us! (No need to book, just turn up anytime from 9.30am—12.30pm.



Our new Saturday Coffee mornings have also been well attended - by the time you read this we will have had our Coffee morning with Table top sale....hopefully the weather will have been good and we'll have been able to spill out onto our lovely new patio.

Other events have included a fabulous evening of African Adventures with Alison and Andrew Wright and a taster Fitsteps session in May. In March Edstaston Church hosted a memorable evening of words and music, with poet Nick Degg and musician Gerry Colvin. New hirers of the hall have included a series of lunch pitstops for Lands End to John O'Groats cyclists and another local wedding reception booked for next year!



THE CAR PARK

It has taken a huge amount of discussion and consultation to find the best way to move forward on what has turned out to be a much bigger job than previously thought!

If you've been to Edstaston Village Hall or just driven past you will have seen that work is progressing slowly on the car park with construction of a retaining wall and a safety fence by local builders KS Sheridan. The wall was backfilled using amazing girl power (Elaine, Liz, Anna and Sandra and Bev)

Next steps will be to use the existing sleepers around the edge to retain the surface planings, but before that drainage will need to be dug, levels sorted, stabilising and weed-proof membrane laid.... it sometimes seems endless!

Thankfully we have dedicated members of the community who with some funding from Wem Rural Parish Council will hopefully be getting together very soon (we're waiting for drier weather to coincide with free days at the hall) to finally get the car park into action!

(See opposite for an update on grant funding...)



We are looking for volunteers for a mowing rota at Edstaston Village Hall (all easy-to-use equipment provided and initial instructions given) so if you are able to offer a couple of hours of your time - no more than once a month - please contact us by email at evh@ryebank.co.uk. The more volunteers we have the less often you'll be called on!

UPCOMING

EVENTS

Jazz on a Summer Afternoon

LIVE MUSIC



Sunday 2nd July 2023 from 4pm

EDSTASTON VILLAGE HALL

Tickets (includes buffet) adults £10 /
10-16 years £5 / under 10 years free

BAR (with both cash and cashless facilities)

ALL WELCOME

Tickets from Elaine Brown / Bev Horsley / Sandra Price / Anna Thomas / Neale Sadler
Don Gregory / Corrine Brown / Trevor Gough / Hazel Rees

or leave a message on our FACEBOOK page @edstastonvillagehall
or email evh@ryebank.co.uk with number of tickets required



Join us at

Edstaston Village Hall

Monday 5th June

any time from 9.30am to 12.30pm

Bring any UFOs (unfinished objects!)

...knitting, crocheting, spinning, mosaic,
embroidery, felting, beading, stitching, weaving,
papercrafts, etc. You could work on current
projects or show off something you've
made....or just come along for chat, help and
inspiration.

Coffee/tea and biscuits
£1 donation

ALL WELCOME



MEN'S GROUP aka Men of Wem Rural

In March we held our first Men's Group (at the suggestion of a local community member) and plan more in the coming months. Various activities have been suggested but do get in touch if you have any ideas to add interest to the group and keep an eye out for more dates on our Facebook page and on our website
www.edstaston.org.uk



We are delighted to report that our grant application to Wem Rural Parish Council for funding for a lawnmower and financial help to kickstart our work on the car park has been successful and we are very grateful for their continued support and faith in us.

We've now bought a cordless lawnmower from Brookside Garden Machine Centre - Chris has been incredibly helpful with advice on the best machine to choose.



The Hartley Business Centre, Monkmoor Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5ST

We are so lucky to have such a dedicated village hall committee looking after the bookings and accounts, organising events and publicity while also keeping Edstaston Village Hall clean and maintained. If you would like to be part of the team we would love to hear from you!
Email evh@ryebank.co.uk or speak to any committee member.

Civility & Respect

Parish Councillors agreed that Wem Rural Parish Council would sign the Civility and Respect pledge.

By Signing the Civility and Respect pledge Wem Rural Parish Council agree to the following:

- ◆ All councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, will be treated with civility and respect in their role.
- ◆ Commit to training all councillors and staff.
- ◆ Sign up to Code of Conduct for councillors.
- ◆ Have good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.
- ◆ Seek professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- ◆ Commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.
- ◆ Continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/ champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme
- ◆ Support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

Wem Rural Parish Council agrees with The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), and One Voice Wales (OVW), that now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

Wheelie Bin Speeding Stickers

Wem Rural Parish Council have purchased a range of stickers that can be placed on Wheelie Bins in areas where speeding could potentially be an issue.

These stickers are a great visual reminder to motorists to drive safely, and stick to the speed limit along our busy roads. It is believed that temporary signs of this nature have a greater effect than more permanent signs.

You are required to show the correct speed limit for the road and please don't be tempted to leave your bin out on the path/ roadside at times other than on official collection days.

You can email the Deputy Clerk to request a speed sticker and you will need to let them know what area they are needed for.



Telephone Poles

Openreach would like us to remind parishioners not to attach signs on their telephone poles as it can stop their engineers from working for safety reasons.

If you would like to put signs up on telephone poles then you will need to contact the National Notice Handling Centre who will check firstly if the request is feasible, they will then ask a local manager for their approval based on the locality (this can make a difference depending on the area, such as affixing a mirror to a pole may be fine in a rural area but more of a problem in a built up area etc).

The whole process can be quite lengthy as it sometimes requires a drive by visit etc. Once they have gone through this checking process they will either allow or reject the request. Their email address to send requests is NNHC@openreach.co.uk.

If an attachment is found that has not been approved then their engineers will remove it, if they can do so safely.

If they cannot remove it safely they would be expected to notify their manager, who will start the process of identifying the owner of the equipment to ask that they remove it. Of course this means that works that have been planned are delayed, faults can't be repaired, new orders for service can't be completed etc until the hazard is removed.

All of this comes at an expense and the owner of the attachment may be liable for these costs.

There may also be charged for any remedial works that are needed to make the pole safe again (right up to removing and replacing the pole if needed).

Many thanks for your co-operation.

REMINDER!

Telephone Poles

Openreach would like us to remind parishioners not to put up signs on telephone poles as it can stop their engineers from climbing poles and therefore completing repairs

Read more at www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk »

WEM RURAL PARISH COUNCIL

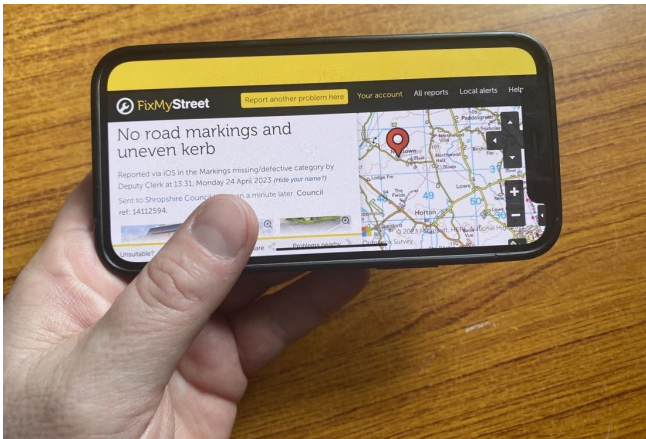
Problems with Potholes?

Potholes are caused by the expansion and contraction of ground water after the water has entered into the ground under the pavement and mostly occurs in Spring when temperatures fluctuate above and below freezing point more.

They appear in various sizes and shapes and can cause damage to cars if not repaired so it's important that we report them to Shropshire Council as soon as we see them – but do you know how?

You can report potholes on the Shropshire Council's website however there is an even easier way which you can do direct from your phone when you're out walking the dog!

Just download the Fix My Street App to your phone and when you see a pothole just take a picture, upload it on the App and mark the location. You will be notified when the pothole has been repaired and can track the progress of the repair and search for other reports in your neighbourhood.



Neighbourhood Matters

You can now sign up to Neighbourhood Matters to find out what's happening in the area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through the free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what we're doing in your community.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone. Don't worry, you won't be bombarded with every incident as you can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

You can sign up at www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

Please note that this service is not for reporting crimes or incidents – to make a report please contact West Mercia Police via the West Mercia Police website or dial 999 in an emergency.

The speed limit when passing horse riders or horse-drawn vehicles is 10 mph. When passing a horse you should always pass wide and slowly.



Be aware of Horses

The speed limit when passing horse riders or horse-drawn vehicles is 10 mph.

When passing a horse you should always pass wide and slowly.

You can find more information in Rule 125 of the Highway Code which states:

Be particularly careful of horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles especially when approaching, overtaking, passing or moving away. Always pass wide and slowly. When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph. Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to do so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least 2 metres of space.

Horse riders are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders' and horse drivers' signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard; they can be unpredictable, despite the efforts of their rider/driver. Remember there are three brains at work when you pass a horse; the rider's, the driver's and the horse's. Do not forget horses are flight animals and can move incredibly quickly if startled.



Think which service?

Find out which service in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin can best help you: Thinkwhichservice.co.uk

	Common ailments and illnesses Minor cuts, bruises and minor sprains, coughs and colds	SELF CARE
	Need help fast but not an emergency? Feeling unwell? Unsure? Anxious? Need help?	111.NHS.UK
	Health advice Fevvers, stomach upsets, bites, headaches, aches and pains	PHARMACIST
	Symptoms that won't go away Ear pain, back pain, stomach pain	GP
	Minor injuries Sprains, fractures, minor burns, skin infections, minor eye injuries	MINOR INJURY UNITS & URGENT CARE CENTRES
	Urgent mental health support Call the urgent helpline on 0808 196 5491 - available 24/7	MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS HELPLINE
999	Life threatening emergencies Loss of consciousness, severe breathing difficulties, heavy bleeding	A&E

NEW TOWN



ED STASTON

RODEN

Wem Rural Parish Council

www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/wemruralPC

Councillors invite members of their ward to contact them to discuss any issues or matters of concern.

You can also contact us:

Parish Clerk:

Carole Warner,
Orchard Cottage,
Rowe Lane,
Welshampton, SY12 0QB
01948 710672
or email
clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk

Deputy Clerk:

Helen McCabe
Tel: 07720 854185
Email:
deputyclerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

12 Councillors represent the 3 wards

EDSTASTON

Huw Edwards	07834 252412	Bank House Farm, Paddol Green, Wem, SY4 5QZ
Jan Hilditch	07973 934713	West View, Newtown, Wem, SY4 5UF
William Minty	07762 478353	Lowe Pond Farm, Lowe, Wem, SY4 5UE
Pete Slack	01939 236990	Fairview, 7 Paddol Green, Wem, SY4 5QZ
Liz Vernon	01939 234896	The Park, Edstaston, Wem, SY4 5RF

NEWTOWN

John Britton	01948 710846	Salters Rest, Northwood, SY4 5NW
Julia Goode	07971 102569	3 Oakhurst Villas, Newtown, SY4 5NT

RODEN

Peter Broomhall	01939 231565	Tilleycroft, 77 Roden Grove, Wem, SY4 5HJ
Andrew Matthews	07929 783456	1 Pyms Cottages, Lowe Hill, Wem, SY4 5UD
Denise Morgan	01939 233906	4 Locksmith Cottage, Tilley, Wem, SY4 5HE
Jordan Page	07508 270009	2 Tilley Green, Wem, SY4 5PL
Len Staines	01939 234415	The Hawthorns, Barkers Green, Wem, SY4 5JW

M E E T I N G S

The Parish Council normally meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Edstaston Village Hall at 7pm . Please refer to the Council's website.

Agendas for all meetings are available on the website 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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LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD