



Rural Review

The Newsletter of Wem Rural Parish Council
Issue 44 Spring/Summer 2024

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WELCOME....

to the Spring/Summer issue of Rural Review. Whilst we hope that Spring is here to stay and it's not getting dark until nearly 9pm there's lots to read in the latest Rural Review so thanks to everyone that has submitted an article. We've completed this year's round of community grants and funding for the worthy causes across our community which takes pride of place below. We will be reporting back to you during the year on how these projects are progressing.

We held our Annual Parish Meeting in early April where West Mercia Police shared their view on Rural and Business Crime Prevention so there are a number of articles in this issue that are specific to that topic. It's important for us to report all crime or suspected criminal behaviour. Without the data from us the Police cannot respond or align their resources accordingly. After all they serve us but they have to know when we need them.

Other notable events since the last Review was a hugely successful International Women's Day event in Wem Town Hall, a Spring Clean litter pick, the opening of the Horse and Jockey, the further expansion of Edstaston Village Hall and the publishing of the www.WalksAroundWem.co.uk, courtesy of the Parish Paths Partnership.

Items that may require action from you are the Garden Waste Consultation, training on how to use the Defibrillators located around the parish and support for the Big Green Week.



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

Community Grants and Funding

The Council is committed to supporting local community groups and is delighted to announce that the following grants and funding have been awarded in 2024:

- SYA - Wem Senior Youth Club to replace sports equipment - £275.29
- Newtown Parish Church to maintain the churchyard - £500
- Friends of Whitchurch Cemetery to maintain the cemetery - £500
- 1st Wem Scouts to help with running costs - £500
- Edstaston Village Hall for a new noticeboard from CiL Neighbourhood Fund— £435.53
- NCRA to top-up the play bark from CiL Neighbourhood Fund - £1,500
- Wem Carnival to help with running costs - £500
- St Mary's Church Edstaston for upkeep of church and churchyard - £400
- Wem Town Hall to support young people with disabilities—£610

Many thanks to all of the volunteers involved in these projects to help serve the local community!

Rural Review

is produced by
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For further
information
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07720 854185
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The Great British Spring Clean

Several Parish Councillors and local residents met on Saturday 16th March for the Big Spring Clean Event.

They picked up litter from Edstaston, The Lowe, Horton, Ryebank, Lowe Hill and Ossage Lane and a BIG thank you goes out to everyone that helped to clean up our parish.

Cllr Goode kept everyone going with bacon and sausage baps that were kindly donated by the community-minded Wem Co-Op.

Cllr Page collected around 20 bags of rubbish which he picked up in his truck.



Litter Picking

Many thanks to Freedom Fibre for providing much needed litter picking kits to help pick up litter.

These kits are available for groups to use to help clean up the parish and along with Parish councillors the Parish Paths Partnership who have been helping as they are regularly out clearing pathways so that local residents can enjoy the countryside. Thank you to local resident Ian Haslam for cleaning the river path in Tilley.

If you would like to borrow a litter picking kit please contact the Clerk.



The theme for our next FREE Networking Event is **Digital Marketing for your business** and will be a practical workshop on how to expand your business using online tools. There will be plenty of time for networking so don't forget to bring your business cards.

Monday 8th July 2024
6-8pm

Business Networking



Feedback from International Women's Day

Many thanks to everyone that attended Wem's first International Women's Day event in March.

Over 500 local people and visitors attended the event including the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sherriff and Lezley Picton, leader of Shropshire Council.

Throughout the day attendees enjoyed talking to local business owners in the exhibition area, listening to inspirational speakers, taking part in activities in addition to enjoying an afternoon tea.

The highlights included a moving dance performance by Derwen College, an inspiring talk from local Pauline Dee BEM and finishing off with an empowering Burlesque Workshop with BellaTrix.

It was also great to see students from St Peter's CE Primary School and Thomas Adams Schools, who also produced display boards of Shropshire women that inspire them.

You can download the full report on the Wem Rural Parish Council website or ask the Clerk for a printed copy.

Put Saturday 8th March 2025 for International Women's Day in your diary and please contact the Clerk if you would like to get involved.



International Women's Day Event Report for Wem Rural Parish Council

"A FIRST FOR WEM"

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS NOT JUST FOR WOMEN. GENDER EQUALITY IS AN ISSUE FOR EVERYONE

Started in 1911 International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Wem Rural Parish Council hosted its first event to celebrate the local success of women.

2024 Theme

The theme for 2024 was **Inspire Inclusion** and was used to raise awareness of digital inclusion as this is a concern for many women locally.

Planning the Event

A core group of women met on a regular basis and helped the Clerk to plan this event which included managing volunteers, finding speakers and performances.

All of the women have shown an interest to continue to meet. (Around 20 local business-women, volunteers, councillors or retired)

The Event

It was a well attended event by people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, lifestyles views with one thing in common - celebrating local women.

MORE THAN 500 WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN ATTENDED THE EVENT

INCLUDING STUDENTS FROM THOMAS ADAMS AND ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

INCLUDING LOCAL BUSINESS WOMEN AND VISITORS



Ticket Fraud

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a ticket fraud awareness campaign, warning people to be alert to fraudsters trying to catch out people planning for popular and sold-out events. Last year more than 8,700 people reported they had been a victim of ticket fraud, with a total of £6.7 million lost. This works out to an average loss of £772 per victim.

How to protect yourself from ticket fraud:

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, the promoter, an official agent or a well-known and reputable ticket exchange site.
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.
- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password, and enable 2-step verification (2SV).
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.

Is the vendor a member of the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR)? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit star.org.uk/buy_safe.

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: www.stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk

Report ticket fraud

If you feel at all suspicious, report the email to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at report@phishing.gov.uk. For more advice on how to stay secure online, please visit cyberaware.gov.uk.

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>



Royal British Legion Wem Branch 100th Anniversary

A service took place at St Peter and St Paul's on Saturday 27th April, to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Wem Branch of the Royal British Legion. This fine charity is especially relevant in our area due to the large number of serving and ex-military personnel who live in this beautiful part of North Shropshire.

The service was conducted by Rev John Jukes, Padre to the RBL in Wem. There were many Standard Bearers, who covered a wide cross section of generations, which was lovely to see.

A special piece of music was composed for the occasion by Mike McDermott, Choirmaster for Wem Community Choir.

Many local dignitaries were in attendance, which included past and present Town Councillors and past and present Shropshire Councillors. Also present was the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Helen Morgan MP and Chairman of Wem Rural Parish Council, Huw Edwards also kindly attended.

After the service, there was a delicious lunch at the United Services Club, where the guests were treated to an excellent speech from Brian Pullen, Chairman of the Royal British Legion Wem Branch, who wished to thank all those who had attended and all those who had put so much effort in to organising such a special event.

SERVICE NOT SELF (motto of RBL)



Wem and Prees Medical Practice News

We have a few exciting updates at the Practice. We recently welcomed Dr Ruth Oldroyd as our Senior Partner following the retirement of Dr Beresford after 27 years as a GP. Dr Oldroyd is not far behind having joined us here in 2001 and is about to celebrate her 23rd year here at the Practice. Joining the team most recently we are pleased to introduce our new GP Partner Dr Nan Thornley who became a Partner in October 23. Dr Thornley is a most welcome addition and takes our complement of Clinical Partners to 7 and a total of 10 GPs at the practice.

We are very pleased to have such a well-doctored practice with long-serving GP Partners and a consistent team of GP's. Continuity of care is important to us and is an area that we know is important to our patients. We plan to continue to focus on this in 2024 which is one of the reasons that we have made the decision to implement a new appointment booking system for our patients from April 2024.

Firstly, we are aware that we experience heavy demand on our telephone lines at peak times and that appointments can be difficult to arrange. Despite increasing our telephone line capacity and recruiting more doctors and receptionists' we know that access to appointments has remained difficult with unacceptable wait times for patients on our telephones.

In late 2022 we invited our patients to complete a questionnaire where we asked for your thoughts on how easy it was to get through to the practice and book an appointment. This feedback was vital in helping us formulate the best way to address the issues that you were experiencing.

We have now completed our review of our appointment booking system and have listened to feedback from our patients and our Patient Participation Group. After careful thought we have made the decision to move to an online system.

This means that from 8th April 2024 patients will be asked to submit a simple online form to contact the practice rather than telephoning or coming into reception to book. The form is clearly displayed and available on the website www.wemandpreeshealth.co.uk. It can be accessed via a smart phone, computer, or tablet. Once received our clinical and admin teams will review the forms the same day, and patients will then be contacted with the appropriate appointment or advice.

For those that do not have access to a smartphone, or computer, or are unable to use the online form you will still be able to telephone the practice. A receptionist will be able to submit the form on your behalf by completing it with you over the telephone.

We hope that those that are comfortable completing the form online will support this new process by doing so as this will reduce the number of calls coming through to the practice, reducing pressure on the telephone lines and improving the service for those that are unable to use the online method.

Are you lonely?

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) recently launched the next phase of their loneliness campaign activity, as part of the Better Health – Every Mind Matters campaign. This follows the success of last year's national campaign which encouraged young people to support others feeling lonely.

We are all affected by loneliness at times in our lives and can become more prevalent in rural locations with limited transport links and broadband.

As 16-24 year olds are the least likely to take action to help themselves, the campaign targets young people with the aim to normalise loneliness as a part of life and to reduce the stigma that often prevents people from accessing support.

If you or someone you know is feeling lonely, search 'Loneliness Every Mind Matters' for support and advice or go to www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/life-challenges/loneliness/.

Volunteer
with us



Read Easy
Helping adults learn to read

*"We offer free, confidential, one to one coaching to adults who want to learn to read and improve their reading skills.
No cost, no classroom, no exams!"*

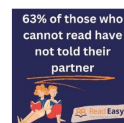
The Read Easy Telford and Shropshire East group covers Telford, Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch. It was set up in 2019 and is affiliated with Read Easy UK. Our aim is to help adults who are over 18 who want to learn to read. We are all volunteers, and the group is made up of a Management Team, Coordinators, Reading Coaches and Readers (the adults who are paired with a coach to learn to read). All training, resources and reading materials are provided free of charge.

Many of us take reading for granted, but can you imagine not been able to read a prescription, recipe, bus timetable, bank statement and so on.

Although we are affiliated with Read Easy UK we are self supporting and we rely on successful grant applications to fund our costs. It costs us on average, £300.00 to set up a reader with a trained coach. The reading manuals and other resources cost £200.00 and coach training costs us £56.00. There are other costs like a reading coach and reader welcome pack and volunteer travel expenses.

If you'd like to volunteer with us by helping someone learn to read or helping us to run our group, please get in touch to discuss our volunteering opportunities.

If you know of someone who would like to learn to read, please get in touch.



Giving adults the reading skills and confidence they need to fulfil their potential and live life to the full.



For more information on Volunteering & Learning to read please contact Claire on 07941 515220 & Tewrleader@readeasy.org.uk

www.readeasy.org.uk

Edstaston Village Hall News



The Edstaston Village Hall committee is absolutely delighted that we have had a **YES** from the National Lottery Community Fund to our grant application for £47K towards the second extension to Edstaston Village Hall! Together with a grant from Wem Rural Parish Council and Edstaston Village Hall's own saved funds we have enough to complete this community project started in 2017 with the generous gift of land by the Price family of Edstaston.

The work will already have started by the time this Rural Review is published after considerable planning and preparation by members of the community - blocks and bricks bought when the first extension was built needed moving so the foundations can be dug, the conifer hedge trimmed, the shed emptied, taken down and removed (to be recycled).

By the time you read this the car park should also be finished with help and loan of machinery from the community.

Our website <http://edstaston.org.uk> has more information on the extension project as well as "What's On", History of Edstaston Village Hall and Photo Gallery pages. You can also follow us on Facebook @edstastonvillagehall.

Walks Around Wem

Many thanks to everyone that responded to the fundraising campaign on Spacehive to fund the printing of walking guides and waymarkers.

The £1,634 needed was raised by local residents, Shropshire Council and Wem Rural Parish Council.

Wem Rural Parish Council are creating walking guides with the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Group. These guides will be printed and made available on their new website www.walksaroundwem.co.uk

They will also be organising social meet-ups so please check their website for details.

1st Wem Scouts also helped the P3 Group create an accessible walk around Wem.

Crossword Answers

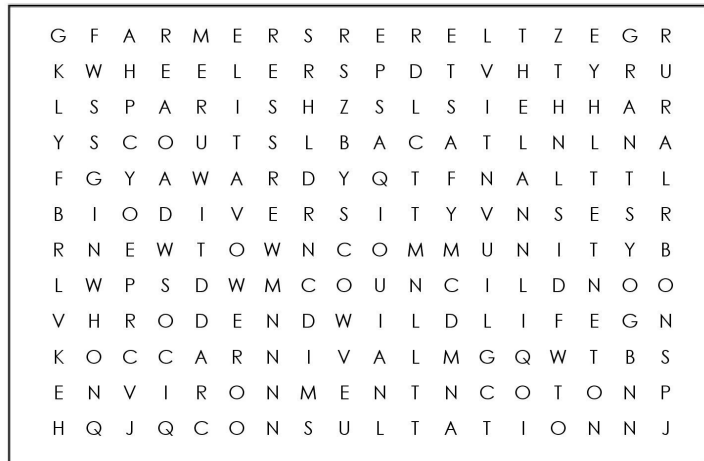
Well done if you completed the crossword in the previous issue of the Rural Review. The answers are below

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 3. Round | 1. Raven |
| 4. TrenchHall | 2.Soulton |
| 6. Coton | 5.horseandjockey |
| 10.Lower Lacon | 7.PalmsHill |
| 12. Tilley | 8.Waterloo |
| 13. Oaklands | 9.Hollies |
| 14. Wem Moss | 11. Steps |

Just for Fun

Can you find the words in this wordsearch and make a word associated to Wem Rural Parish?

Word Search



Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------|
| BIODIVERSITY | WHEELERS | EVENTS |
| CONSULTATION | COUNCIL | AWARD |
| ENVIRONMENT | NEWTOWN | RURAL |
| EDSTASTON | FARMERS | COTON |
| COMMUNITY | PARISH | RODEN |
| CARNIVAL | SCOUTS | |
| WILDLIFE | TILLEY | |
| PLANNING | GRANTS | |

Garden Waste Consultation

Shropshire Council is seeking your views on proposals to introduce charges to garden waste collection and changes to Household Recycling Centres.

This survey should take approximately 18 minutes to complete and you can either scan in the code on the poster or go online at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/garden-waste-and-household-recycling-centres-consultation>

The consultation will close at 11:59pm Monday, 20th May.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.



Waste consultation

Please tell us your views

Like councils all over the country Shropshire is facing an unprecedented financial pressure. We must make £62m of savings in 2024/25 and need to make some difficult decisions.

We're planning to introduce an annual subscription fee for the collection of garden waste from properties in the Shropshire.

We're also considering the future operation of our household recycling centres.

To find out more and tell us what you think, go to www.shropshire.gov.uk/gardenwastebudget2024



POT HOLES

If you are concerned about pot holes or any other street repairs then the easiest way to report them is via the Fix My Street App.

You can either download the App on your smart device or visit the website.



www.fixmystreet.com

Let Your Garden Grow this Spring



LET YOUR GARDEN GROW

By letting your grass grow wild, you're creating a haven for a diverse array of plants, insects, and small creatures.

Why does this matter? Longer grass provides shelter and food for insects like bees, butterflies and beetles, which are essential pollinators for many of our favorite plants. Plus, it offers a cozy habitat for small mammals and birds, enhancing the overall biodiversity of your garden.

So, put down the mower and embrace a wilder, more biodiverse lawn! You'll not only enjoy the beauty of a natural meadow but also contribute to the health of local ecosystems.

Together, let's create spaces where biodiversity thrives! 🌿

At Wem Rural Parish Council we are actively looking at ways to preserve biodiversity and one of the things we can all do is to let our gardens grow.

By letting the grass grow a bit longer it allows wild flowers to bloom, which in turn provides a vital source of nectar to pollinators like bees.

This is why Plantlife run an annual campaign 'No Mow May' but there are many ways that you can help preserve biodiversity, such as creating a wildflower section in your garden and planting pollinators such as primoses, lavenders and honeysuckles.

If you are interested in learning more about the importance of letting your grass grow then visit www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/your-no-mow-may-lawn-guide

Defibrillator Awareness Training

Wem Rural Parish Council have arranged for The Community Heartbeat Trust, to demonstrate the use of defibrillators and explain how the equipment works. Residents are invited to join in as the more people that know how use the portable defibrillator, the more chance there is of saving the life of a victim of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

The training session will be at the Horse and Jockey in Northwood on 9th July between 7-9pm. If you would like to attend then please give your details to the Clerk. Spaces are limited and attendees will need to be signed in with Community Heartbeat, so it is essential that the Clerk knows you will be attending.

There is an option for you to receive a certificate from attending the course. No special skills are required, just your willingness to play an important role in the event of a medical emergency.



DATE: 9TH JULY
TIME: 7PM
VENUE: HORSE & JOCKEY, NORTHWOOD

DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS TRAINING

The Community Heartbeat Trust will be demonstrating the use of defibrillators and explaining how the equipment works and its benefits to the community in saving precious minutes in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

The more people that know how to use the portable defibrillator installed in our community, the more chance there is of saving the life of a victim of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

Everybody is welcome, and no special skills are required, just your willingness to play an important role in the event of a medical emergency

CONTACT THE CLERK

Spaces are limited so please contact the Clerk if you would like to attend. Certificates will be provided

📞 07720 854185
✉ clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk
🌐 www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk



The Climate Conversation

Wem Rural Parish Council in partnership with Wem Area Climate Action (WACA) Forum, Wem Town Council and Save our Shropshire, are hosting a Climate Conversation.

The event will take place at Jubilee Square in Wem on **Saturday 15th June from 10am-12noon**. There will be a range of games and activities for everyone.

If you are interested in getting more involved with practical projects or take part in discussions about how to tackle the climate emergency email WACA at wemclimateaction@gmail.com.

Practical steps might be developing wildflower meadows, training in energy saving measures for homes, helping others to understand how to reduce their carbon footprint through playing "Go Bananas". Come and see how.

You will also see WACA at the Vehicles Of Interest on 21st July.



The Importance of Reporting Crime

Here's an important message from West Mercia Police on why it's really important to report matters of rural crime or suspicious incidents to the police - **here's why**:

- **Suspicious incidents are really useful for police work.** Often seeing a suspicious vehicle enter a lane, a yard or a stranger knocking at your door could be an early warning they are looking to come back to steal. Vehicle registrations can give us information on who is doing this. Therefore these incidents are just as important to report as actual crimes!
- **Most importantly** - without the figures and reports it looks like the crime isn't happening in the rural areas. We are pushing for more resources, more help to tackle rural crime and so need evidence to show what is happening, where and when. We can also offer rural crime prevention and discuss trail cameras, early intruder alarms and offer a property marking service.

If you are a victim or witness a crime that is happening now then you must phone **999** immediately. If you have seen a suspicious incident, or would like an update on a crime, you should contact the Safer Neighbourhood Teams or Rural and Business Officers. These officers do not have the capacity to deal with adding crimes onto the system and are not 24/7, whereas the police control room is and can allocate the matter immediately if urgent.

Rural Watch

Being a member of Rural Watch can help to protect you from crime as you can access security advice and information, which will help you to keep your property safe.

As a member you will receive information on farm, rural or equine related incidents and incidents from across Shropshire, so that you can be aware of any suspicious activity that may occur.

Everyone is a potential target for thieves, but membership of these Watches allows us to pass on to you the advice and help that you need to help you prevent crime.

If you would like to discuss setting up a Rural Watch in your area please contact Graham Donaldson, Shropshire Rural and Business Crime Officer at:

Phone: 07971 395278

Email: graham.donaldson@westmercia.police.uk

Another great way of keeping informed with what is happening in your area is to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters, a messaging service from the police where you will receive messages relating only to your local area. This can be done via www.westmercia.police.uk

FREE SMART WATER KITS

NOW AVAILABLE

Smart water is a form of liquid which SNT register specifically to the person. The liquid can be applied to anything using a small brush located in the container. All it needs is a small dot.



Police have torches which come with UV lights which can look for the dots on items if stolen or lost are found and return items to the rightful owner.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PCSO

	OLIVER MORRIS 07970 879117
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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:
 Helen McCabe
 Tel: 07720 854185
 Email:
clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk

Do you have a story to share?

Wem Rural Parish Council would like to share news from local businesses, charities and community groups.

Please send your stories to the Clerk

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 232906	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