

Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 10 - July 2011

Hello and welcome.....

to this mid-year issue, which is a couple of weeks later than usual so that we can bring you the latest news on the most significant matters currently being addressed by the Parish Council, in particular the landfill site.

In the last issue, you were advised that a summary of the accounts would be included in this one but due to the lack of space it has been necessary to include them in the Annual Report, a copy of which is enclosed with this newsletter. What the accounts don't display in themselves is the fact that on a house by house basis there has been no increase in the precept, year on year.

At the Parish Meetings which have taken place in the last four months, the Council has found it useful to invite representatives from organisations to give advice and information, and the subjects covered give an indication of the issues under discussion. From Shropshire Council, the Principal Planning Officer from Oswestry explained the "transfer" of this Parish Council (in planning development) from the Wem office to Oswestry; also from Shropshire Council, the new Community Action Officer

explained how her role has widened to more than Local Joint Committee interaction; and from the Environment Agency, the manager responsibility for monitoring landfills in Shropshire explained the Agency's role. The Council also had a training/briefing session on Shropshire's development proposals from a Senior Planning Policy Officer.

The Annual Parish meeting took place in May. Due to there being no new major issue to be discussed, and residents apparently having no issues to raise, the attendance was poor in comparison to the last two years. However, the opportunity was taken to do a full public review of the Parish Plan, which can be found on our website. Also the annual meeting took place in May, which resulted in myself again being elected as Chair, and other Councillors continuing to hold responsibilities in specialist areas, as published in the minutes.

In the media there is almost constant news about local government, much of it negative due to the financial situation in which Shropshire Council is, but I hope that this newsletter can add a really local comment and do its job of keeping you informed.

Read on.....

Chris Symes

Community Tree Scheme

Shropshire Council's annual Tree Scheme is up and running again. This year, in response to feedback from previous schemes, the Council is bringing everything forward slightly. Applications for free trees are being taken from now until Friday December 2nd 2011. Successful applicants will be notified in early January, with an intended tree collection day of Saturday 4th February 2012.

To remind you of the details – community groups, schools, landowners and the general public are welcome to apply for free trees and shrubs. The scheme is open to anyone as long as the trees will be planted

where they will provide some public amenity value.

Full details of the scheme, including a comprehensive list of trees and shrubs from which to choose, can be found on the Council's website or by contacting the Natural Environment Team on 01743 252584 or 252564.

Colemere Sheds Appeal

The last edition of the newsletter included a report on the proposed development of the buildings known as Colemere Sheds. Although Shropshire Council declined planning permission the applicant exercised his right to go to Appeal.

The timing of the Shropshire Council's decision and the submission of the appeal has caused some additional work for the Council. On 24 February Shropshire Council adopted a complete new range of Planning Policies and it was understood the Planning Inspectorate would determine the application against these new policies. The Council reviewed the application against these new policies and submitted a revised objection to the development.

The Parish Council currently understands that the Planning Inspectorate will make a decision on Colemere Sheds by the end of July — too late to be included in this newsletter. The decision and any other documentation will be published on the Parish Council's website and on the Notice Boards.

Having Trouble Getting to Places?

Not everyone has a car and in these days of high costing fuel the car is not always the easy choice. There are two alternatives run by Shropshire Council that could come to your help.

ShropshireLink

This is a bus service designed to provide transport in all rural areas. Unlike the traditional bus service ShropshireLink is not restricted to a set route or timetable. Instead the bus is able to travel flexibly and meets the demands of people who wish to travel to their nearest market town. Everyone can use this service which operates around Ellesmere on a Monday and Friday. The buses are fully accessible with low floors, access ramps and wheel chair restraints. You may even be able to be collected from home. Journeys can be booked up to seven days in advance or with as little as 24 hours notice. Book the bus or register as a user on 0345 678 9068,

Community Car Scheme

This scheme assists local people with special requirements make essential journeys such as visits to medical centres, dentist and to visit family friends in hospital. All journeys must be booked in advance by telephone through a scheme co-ordinator. Older persons over the age of 60 may qualify for vouchers worth £20.

The scheme relies on a team of dedicated, volunteer drivers. The majority are retired and welcome the opportunity to support their local community providing a stable caring service. From reading this you may be interested in becoming a volunteer. You can offer as much or as little time as you like. Shropshire Council pays a set rate for mileage expenses and a contribution towards telephone costs.

If you are interested in the scheme contact the Voluntary Car Co-ordinate on 01743 255613.

Welshampton Parish Hall

“Success all Round”

The Parish Hall has had its most successful year for some time. The kitchen has been refurbished with the help of a grant of £330 from Ellesmere & District Round Table and now has two new refrigerators, a new cooker and sufficient cutlery and crockery for 150 people. The hall has been redecorated inside and out and is now something that the whole community can be proud of. Success has been achieved by the introduction of regular Bingo sessions; the next one will be held on 21st September, please make a note of this in your diary. Recent sessions have been well attended and warmly received by the community.

Special events have also played their part. Recently approximately 150 people attended a Hog Roast. The roast pork was excellent as were the salads, sweets and cheese and biscuits. The occasion benefited from live music, thank you Brian Stone and "Percussion Unlimited" for the music, and our own licensed bar. A special thanks is due to the volunteers who provided the sweets, they were truly excellent. Requests for a repeat have been pouring in!

Of course, there are two other vital ingredients to the success of the Hall, these are your support and the hard work of a small number of dedicated people. Thank you if you have participated and, if this is the first that you've heard of our Renaissance, we look forward to seeing you at the Hall in the coming months.

If you would like to hire the Hall for your own event please call Lorraine Jones on 01948 71068.

The Management Committee

Anti Social Behaviour: Tell Us About It!

The everyday crime and disorder described as anti social behaviour ultimately has an impact on the quality of life of everyone in Shropshire. Fortunately, it is not an issue that occurs regularly in our community but you may encounter it elsewhere or know someone who is suffering from such behaviour.

There is now an easier way of reporting incidents than ever before. From June the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership has introduced a new single telephone number for people to report incidents of anti social behaviour: 0345 678 9020. The number will be manned 24 hours a day and provide help and advice.

Parish Litterpick?

Do you sometimes despair at the rubbish left in the verges or even just thrown out along the lanes? If you do, maybe you'd like to take part in a Community Litterpick?

The Parish Council is willing to help organise a one-off event or even a series of Litterpicks in the Parish. The Council will supply litterpickers (adult and junior), bag hoops, refuse sacks and Hi-Viz vest. If you are interested please contact the Clerk.

Dates For Your Diary

Council Meetings

Wednesday 27 July	7pm
Wednesday 24 August	7pm
Wednesday 28 September	7pm

All meetings are in the Parish Hall

Tudor Griffiths Landfill Site

Back in February the Parish Council hit the front page of the Shropshire Star following its decision to object to a variation of the planning permission given to Tudor Griffiths (TG) for landfill operations at its site at Wood Lane. You may recall the headline "Jobs at Risk". This was not a decision the Council took lightly and explains why in the Annual Report enclosed with this newsletter.

Once the Council submitted its decision it has been following the progress of the application. However, the Council had no idea of what would then transpire. A summary, by Cllr Lawrence Houghton, is set out below:

As part of the legal process of dealing with planning applications Shropshire Council's Planning Department are required to consult with interested parties. For this type of application one of the interested parties is the Environment Agency (EA). The EA recommended that permission should not be granted. In the formal response to the Planning Department the EA identified some significant and serious issues. Firstly, TG had failed to comply with material conditions that were fundamental to the granting of an Environmental Permit issued to them in 2009. Additionally, the EA considered that there was an unacceptable risk of causing a detrimental impact to groundwater quality. In fact, groundwater monitoring data for the site was showing the presence of contaminant substances. It is feared that this has been the case since before 2005. The Parish Council was very concerned.

The Parish Council wrote to the EA for further information and as well as providing a written response to its questions the EA Inspector responsible for the TG site attended a Parish Council meeting to explain first hand the complex issues relating to the monitoring of the site.

The Parish Council's current understanding of the situation is that TG, the EA and Shropshire Planning Department are in negotiations to identify a way forward. However this is likely to be a slow process

Colemere Residents Association approached the Parish Council for support in opposing TG's planning application to extend landfill activities. They were naturally shocked and concerned by the information contained the EA's report and have raised their concerns directly with the Planning Dept and the EA. They are pressing for the earliest possible resolution to these problems and have asked the Parish Council for its continuing support to help them achieve this.

Having considered the information supplied by EA, the Parish Council pressed for local water to be tested and several Colemere residents came forward to volunteer their wells. The testing will be carried out by Shropshire Council as their Environmental Health Team conduct routine sampling of drinking water supplies. Additionally, Shropshire Council has contact with an independent laboratory that is accredited to analysis the samples. The EA have approached TG to cover Shropshire Council's sampling and analysis costs, a reasonable request that TG has reacted positively to in the first instance. Any results will be interpreted by both the EA and Shropshire Council and discussed with the residents. The Parish Council will ensure information is shared with Parish residents.

Back to the planning application. As you can appreciate, it has now stalled and until the issues with the EA have been resolved, operations continue at Wood Lane, beyond the original permission.

P3 Update

The Welshampton, Lyneal and Colemere P3 Walking Group (WLCP3) is a voluntary group set in 2008 after concern was expressed regarding the Parish footpaths during the Parish Plan consultations and the subsequent publication of the Parish Plan.

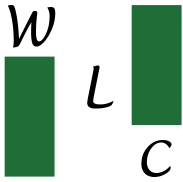
The group walks monthly, mainly along the Parish paths, taking notes of any problems along the way. These may be missing or overgrown way-mark signs, inaccessible or reduced width of stiles due to rampant vegetation, broken stiles, finger posts and blocked access. The group replaces missing way-marks and whenever possible cuts back the overgrowth. Problems regarding access and furniture ie stiles, gates posts are passed to Shropshire Council.

Unfortunately the Rights of Way budget cuts that have been made by Shropshire Council are severe and there is the fear that unless a path is classed as a priority path any problems could be ignored due to lack of funding. Shropshire Ramblers are organising a petition to halt the cutbacks. They intend to present the petition to the Council at Shirehall on 24 November during a massed walk past the offices on the day.

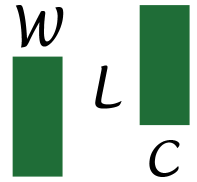
Our next walk is scheduled for Wednesday 27 July; meeting at the Sun car park at 1.30pm when we hope to walk up to 4 separate footpaths, passing Colemere, Newton Mere and Blake Mere. We look forward to seeing you.

In the meantime, please walk your local paths and if you could cut back any overgrowth around stiles and markers this will be much appreciated by everyone who enjoys walking in the countryside.

If you would like any further information or encounter any problems please contact George Rook, P3 Co-ordinator on 01948



Useful Contact Details



For a more comprehensive list of local contacts please look at the Council's website www.2shrop.net/welshampton

Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Ruth Evans
Peter Gee
Richard Hall
Caroline Hamilton (Vice Chair)
Sarah Jefferies
Ian Yates

Lyneal Ward

Lawrence Houghton
Chris Symes (Chair)
Martin Withington

Councillors can be contacted by letter, phone or email through the clerk

Carole Warner (Clerk) 01948 710672
welshamptonandlynealpc@hotmail.co.uk

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams 01939 234198

Communitiy Action Officer (LJC Grants)

Julie Ruler 0345 678 9000

Shropshire Council 0345 678 9000

Customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk
www.shropshire.gov.uk

Benefits	0345 678 9001
Council tax	0345 678 9002
Planning and building control	0345 678 9004
Housing and social services	0345 678 9005
Streets, roads and transport	0345 678 9006
Bins and recycling	0345 678 9007
Children's services	0345 678 9008
Payment line	0345 678 9009
Dog Warden	0845 678 9018
<i>emergencies only</i>	07702 166039
Flytipping	0845 678 9009
Bulky waste collection service	0845 678 9009

Emergency Contacts

In most emergencies you should dial 999

For non - emergencies

West Mercia Police 08457 444 888

Shropshire Fire & Rescue 01743 260200

West Midlands Ambulance Service

01743 273649

NHS Direct

0845 46 47

Local Policing Teams

Ellesmere (Welshampton) 01743 264749

ellesmere.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Ellesmere Rural (Colemere and Lyneal)

01743 264704

ellesmererural.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Community Contacts

Welshampton Parish Hall

General Enquiries & Bookings

01948 710687

Ellesmere Info-Link

01691 624488

ellesmereinfo@shropshire.gov.uk

Shropshire Community Directory

01743 255305

community.info@shropshire.gov.uk

www.shropshire.gov.uk/community.nsf

Countryside Ranger for Colemere

Harvey Morgan 01691 624448

harvey.morgan@shropshire.gov.uk

Countryside Community Projects

01691 624448

countryside.conservation@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

RAF Shawbury

01939 250351

Contact Information

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Email: welshamptonandlynealpc@hotmail.co.uk

The information in this newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 for further details.



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