



# Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 15 - February 2013

## Hello and welcome....

to the first edition of 2013 of your Parish Council's newsletter. Since the last issue in October, the public meeting has been held to determine if the Parish Council's response to Shropshire Council's Development consultation should change as a result of the Parish Council being advised of new information about a number of landowners' submissions to Shropshire Council. The meeting was well attended, and included addresses by some of the landowners or their agents, but the opinion of the meeting, by a large majority, was that Parish Council's stated position should not change and that Welshampton is to continue to retain the existing development boundary.

In the next few weeks you will receive your Council Tax demand from Shropshire Council in which you will see that Shropshire Council shows a negligible increase (if one at all) whilst the precept element (the amount you pay for Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Council) shows a significant percentage increase. The reality is that this year there is a local election, all the costs of which have simply been passed from Shropshire Council to the Parish Council. Your Parish Council hopes that sufficient candidates come forward to warrant an election and has budgeted accordingly. In the event that an election is not necessary, this money will be

placed in reserve for future consideration by the Parish Council.

The examination of our costs whilst setting the precept for the year April 2013/14 has identified some savings and most noticeable to residents will be, due to the lack of use of the whole Lyneal playing area, its reduction by approximately half its current area, thereby saving the grounds maintenance cost. The whole budget will be included in the next issue of this newsletter and it will explain the other issues affecting costs such as council tax changes and grants, street lighting contracts and Quality Council communication costs. Whilst the precept cost looks a large increase, it actually works out at only 16p per week for a typical Band D council tax household.

Articles in this issue explain the election process, how to become a Councillor, and the opportunity for you as a resident, at our annual Parish Meeting in April, to make your case as a potential Councillor or to listen to others making their case for you to decide who to vote for, should sufficient people stand. Whether or not the existing Councillors are standing again, it is obviously better for all if the new Parish Council is formed after elections. So.....give it a go!

Chris Symes.

## Local Elections May 2013

On Thursday 2 May 2013 there will be local elections in many counties, towns and parishes in the United Kingdom. It will be the first election at county level since Shropshire disbanded its borough and district councils in 2009 and became a Unitary authority.

This election is your opportunity to appoint the 9 people who will be your own parish councillors for the next 4 years. Enclosed with this newsletter is an information leaflet to encourage residents to consider putting themselves forward as parish councillors.

If you would like to know more about being a parish councillor please contact any of the current Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk. There is also additional information on the Parish Council website.

The following are key dates in the election timetable that you will need to know if you plan to either stand as a candidate or vote in the elections:

**Publication of notice of election:  
by Monday 11 March 2013**

**Receipt of nominations:  
by noon on Friday 5 April 2013**

**Publication of statements of  
persons nominated  
noon Tuesday 9 April**

**Last date for electors to  
register to be able to vote in  
these elections:  
by 5pm Wednesday 17 April  
2013**

**ELECTION DAY  
7.00am to 10.00pm Thursday 2  
May 2013**

Candidates are also invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting, the meeting for parish residents to discuss matters of local interest. See inside for details

## Canal Towpath to Spunhill Public Footpath

Have you ever used the footpath towards Colemere from canal bridge 56 after Blake Mere (grid reference SJ420 337), through Burns Wood, joining the track which comes out on Wood Lane (grid reference SJ417 333)?

Well, a number of people have but this footpath has never been formally registered. In November 2011 Shropshire Council issued a formal Order to add this footpath to the rights of way map. Although there was support to add the footpath an objection was received and Shropshire Council is now preparing a case to submit to the Planning Inspectorate which could lead to a public inquiry.

Shropshire Council has asked that anyone who uses the footpath and has not previously helped by submitting confirmation of such, to get in contact with:

Lucy McFarlane, Rights of Way Officer on 01743 255058 or [lucy.mcfarlane@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.mcfarlane@shropshire.gov.uk). Full details of the footpath are available on the Parish Council's website.

## Meeting Dates

### Council Meetings

Wednesday 27 March	7pm
Wednesday 24 April	7pm
Wednesday 15 May	7pm

### Parish Meeting

Wednesday 10 April	7.30pm
--------------------	--------

All meetings are in the Parish Hall

## Mailing List Update

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that all households in the Parish are receiving their copy of this newsletter. Parishioners are encouraged to check with neighbours and local friends, and if anyone has not received a copy, to contact the Parish Clerk so she can make sure they are put on the mailing list.

## Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme

The recently launched Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme is a five year, £2 million Heritage Lottery and three year DEFRA funded project being led by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The project area encompasses the meres and mosses landscape of south Cheshire and north Shropshire including the parish of Welshampton and Lyneal.

In total this scheme will deliver nearly 300 individual projects focussing on conservation, community engagement, access, learning and skills training with the ultimate aim of restoring and conserving the meres and mosses landscape to provide enduring, sustainable habitats which will benefit both people and wildlife.

Within the Welshampton and Lyneal Parish many individual

projects and events will take place as part of the Landscape Partnership Scheme throughout the five year period. In Colemere for example, we are working to involve local people in practical conservation and surveys, especially aimed at butterflies and otters as well as the general conservation of this special site. In conjunction with Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council we are working to develop community led projects to promote the meres and mosses landscape including walks and a possible revitalisation of the Welshampton Green Day — see other articles in this newsletter.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information on the project please contact Luke Neal, Meres and Mosses Community officer on: [luken@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:luken@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk) or 01734 284275

## Local Joint Committee (LJC)

Some residents are regular attenders of Shropshire Council's LJC for the Ellesmere area. For those who have not attended a meeting before LJC's allow local people to:

- Get involved with democracy at a local level
- Meet with and talk to local councillors and get them to explain their decisions and report back on progress
- Influence ways in which money can be spent in the community.

As the last bullet point states Community Groups can apply for funding from the LJC for projects. As the new financial year is nearly upon us with a new annual budget for grants, it is an ideal time to review what your group is planning for 2013/14 and get that application ready! The next LJC meeting is on 26 March at Criftins Hall at 7pm.

## Annual Parish Meeting — with a difference!

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm in Welshampton Parish Hall. Not only will this be your chance to hear what your Parish Council has been doing on your behalf over the last year but it will be an opportunity to meet prospective Parish Council candidates.

An invitation is being extended to all candidates to attend the meeting and explain to parish residents why they have put themselves forward to represent the community. It is also the opportunity for you, the residents, to tell candidates what you would like to see happen in the Parish over the next 4 years!

See you there!

# Wood Lane Quarry Liaison Group

As part of the planning permission granted by Shropshire Council to extend the landfilling activities at Wood Lane Quarry, the setting up of a Local Liaison Group was a condition. This is not unique as a number of similar groups operate successfully at other Shropshire quarries. The Group's first meeting took place last December and representatives from both the Parish Council and Colemere Residents Association attended.

It is envisaged that the Group will be a formally constituted organisation which will obtain feedback, seek clarification and report back to other interested parties regarding the operations at the Wood Lane site.

In particular, the Group will provide an opportunity for Tudor

Griffiths Ltd to explain about the operations taking place at the site and for relevant stakeholders, including local community representatives, to discuss issues associated with those operations. It is hoped that the creation of the Group will allow effective communications both at the meetings and at other times.

It must be noted that the Group has a non-executive role, does not have any formal enforcement or decision-making power, either within Tudor Griffiths Ltd or the community as a whole but is able to raise issues with key stakeholders.

The Parish Council is pleased to be part of the Group and looks forward to future meetings and working with other Group members.

## Walking in the Parish

As explained by Luke Neal in the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme (MMLPS) article, the Parish Council is supporting the Scheme by organizing community projects in the Parish. There are 2 projects which are planned for the first half of the year, one of which is also an action in the Parish Plan.

### Walking Leaflets

Feedback from the Parish Plan indicated that there was interest in walking, both along the canal tow path and on rights of way. In response a Parish Paths Partnership Group was formed to regularly walk the rights of way, record any problems and help with practical improvements. Another aim was to produce walking leaflets for the Parish.

With assistance from the MMLPS and members of the community, it is hoped that

'walking leaflets plus' can be designed and printed. 'Plus' is envisaged to give snippets of historical interest or wildlife information to enjoy as one walks the chosen route.

The Parish Council and Luke Neal are hoping a group of local residents will come forward to help with this project. If you have an interest in walking, history or local wildlife do get involved! An initial meeting has been arranged for Monday 25 February at 7.45 at The Sun Inn.

### Welshampton Walk

The second project is to hold a day of walks on Saturday 13 July. It is planned to co-ordinate 2 circular walks, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, starting and finishing at The Sun Inn. Look out for further details in the next edition of Keeping YOU Informed!

## Cycling Tourism

At a recent Parish Council meeting Councillors mentioned the increase of cyclists using the roads and lanes, not just in the Parish but wider afield. The Council agreed that this cycling tourism should be encouraged in the Parish as a means to support local businesses.

Cllr Martin Withington has taken on the first project — to set up a specialist website. If you run a business in the area which would be of interest or benefit to visiting cyclists, we can include your details on this site. You may run a B&B, a tea shop, a cycle hire or repair shop or any other business which could attract custom from cyclists.

Visit the website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/greatcyclinginnorthshropshire/home> Once on the site, those interested need to click on the "Contact Us" pane on the left.



## Street Lights

The Parish Council has changed contractors for street light maintenance. Residents have always been helpful in reporting problems and the Council is asking that this continues. The time taken to action repairs should now improve.



Visit us on  
**Facebook**

If you haven't had the chance to check out the facebook page yet — please do and publicise your local event!

[www.facebook.com/welshamptonlynealandcolemerecommunity](http://www.facebook.com/welshamptonlynealandcolemerecommunity)

## Can you offer any help with the introduction of 'Community Support Lines' ?

Before and during any adverse weather, such as periods of ice, snow and flooding, we are calling upon Community Champions to keep a look-out for older and vulnerable people in the community.

Is this something you would like to be involved in, if so, then please read on.....

**What is a 'Community Support Line'?** You will be aware of adverse weather by monitoring weather reports and by having advance warning from Shropshire Council, and in turn, you will trigger off a series of phone calls and visits to a network of older and vulnerable people within the Community. This will be done before, during and after adverse weather with the purpose to assist and advise on any preparations that need to be made through the period of adverse conditions. This may include advising the person you are concerned about to get extra food provisions, remind them to top up electricity cards, check on oil tank levels, wrap up warm, collect prescriptions and help clear snow away from properties etc.

**Who to contact if you are interested?** Carole Warner on telephone 01948 710672 or email [welshamptonandlyneapc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:welshamptonandlyneapc@hotmail.co.uk)

**Who may be vulnerable?** Friends, neighbours, family etc. Try not to leave anyone who is vulnerable to struggle on their own. If you have not seen anyone for a few days and are concerned for their welfare please pop in to see them or phone them up. They may be too proud and embarrassed to ask for help, or may not even know that there is someone there to help. Local residents are being asked to support this campaign by looking out for signs that at risk members of the community might be in extreme difficulty during these periods of adverse weather.



### Useful Contact Details

#### Parish Council

##### **Welshampton Ward**

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

##### **Lyneal Ward**

Lawrence Houghton	Martin Withington
Chris Symes (Chair)	

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

#### **Shropshire Council**

0345 678 9000

#### **Shropshire Councillor**

Brian Williams	01939 234198
----------------	--------------

#### **Emergency Contacts**

**In most emergencies you should dial 999**

**For non - emergencies**

<b>West Mercia Police</b>	101
<b>Shropshire Fire &amp; Rescue</b>	01743 260200
<b>West Midlands Ambulance Service</b>	01743 273649

#### **Community Contacts**

<b>Welshampton Parish Hall</b>	01948 710687
--------------------------------	--------------

#### Contact Information

Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:  
Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council  
Orchard Cottage  
Rowe Lane  
Welshampton  
SY12 0QB

For further information please contact the Clerk:  
Carole Warner on 01948 710672  
Email: [welshamptonandlyneapc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:welshamptonandlyneapc@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.



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.  
When you have finished with it please recycle.