

# Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 3 - February 2009

## Welcome

.....to the latest issue of your Parish Council newsletter and in these difficult times may we wish all residents of Welshampton, Lyneal and Colemere a Happy and Peaceful 2009.

At the most recent Parish Council meeting a review of the Parish Plan was carried out and we have made good progress in some areas, reported here, and are continuing to address some of the more complicated, longer term issues. We will be reporting in full at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13 May. As this coincides with the run-up to the local election for Councillors for the new Shropshire Council, we hope to be able to invite the candidates to this meeting for an open forum, to help residents decide which candidates will best serve our Parish.

Soon we will all be receiving our Council Tax demands for 2009/10, and this will include the Parish Council Precept. Once again, we have tried to balance the budget of cost versus service and so, bearing in mind that we are probably all "feeling the pinch", the Council will be spending less next year than this. To achieve this, the supply of waste disposal skips will happen only once, due in the main to this type of waste disposal being by far the most expensive to deal with, and evidence of abuse by non-residents. However, the Precept will have to increase by a small amount to cover some Parish Plan costs, and to ensure that we do not draw down on our reserves excessively, and typically this increase works out at 4p per week for a Band D property. The detailed budget is overleaf.

The Council is pleased to report that we are getting responses from residents regarding items in the newsletter, and of course our web site is always there for communication, so please keep the comments coming.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you better informed on Parish Council matters and I hope you find it to be so.

**Chris Symes**

Chair of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

## Welshampton Primary School

Members of the Council have been advised that Welshampton Church of England Primary School is currently commencing a consultation on changing the school's status from Voluntary Controlled to Foundation.

The Governors believe that this will strengthen and enhance the links between the school, the Church and the Diocese, whilst also giving the school greater autonomy in the way it is managed. A consultation, which is open to all members of the public and other interested parties, is to take place at St Michael and All Angels Church, Welshampton on 9 March at 6pm. All are most welcome to attend.

Quite apart from the above, as you may have noticed from the press and local publications, Shropshire County Council have commissioned an Independent Policy Commission (conducted by Professor Neil Kinghan) to consider the sustainability of the current network of primary schools in Shropshire. The Parish Council lobbied the Commission in support of local rural schools and the importance they play in their communities. The Commission has now completed its second phase, being the public open meetings, which were attended

by a contingent of local Stakeholders, including Parish Councillors, School Staff, Church, Governors and parents.

We now await the next Interim Report (due in late February) and the Final report containing recommendations in June 2009.

The Council will monitor the situation, but please note, that the Shropshire Council Elections are to take place in June *before* the results of the Commission are published. The newly elected members of the Shropshire Council will therefore have to consider these final recommendations.

If the issue of rural schools and primary education is important to you, you may wish to question any prospective councillors putting themselves forward to represent your community as to their views on this issue, before the local elections.

**Sarah Jefferies**

### Future Council Meetings

Wednesday 25 February 7pm

Wednesday 25 March 7pm

Wednesday 22 April 7pm

All meetings are held at Welshampton Parish Hall.

***Please do come along!***

## Shropshire Council

On 1 April 2009 the Borough, District and County councils will merge to make one new council delivering services for the whole county. The new council will be called 'Shropshire Council'. There will be some important changes to how the Parish will be represented in the decision making process of the new Shropshire Council.

### Who will represent us on the new Council?

Currently the Parish is represented by 3 District Councillors and 1 County Councillor. Over the last year a review has been carried out by the Boundary Commission of England to agree new Wards and the Parish Council has participated in the process on your behalf. The final recommendation is still to be approved but it is likely that our Parish will be in the new Ward 'The Meres' with one councillor representing it. The Meres also includes Cockshutt, Tetchill, Welsh Frankton, Loppington, Petton, Myddle and Broughton.

### Will we, the public, have a greater say in Shropshire Council decisions?

There will be 27 Local Joint Committees (LJC) across the County. Each LJC will be made up of Parish, Town and Shropshire Councillors. LJs will be able to make decisions about the local delivery of a range of services, call council officers or councillors to account on local service delivery, act as a formal consultation route to the new council and will have a delegated budget to spend on local priorities.

The Parish Council will be part of a LJC and it is hoped this new structure will make a difference in practical ways to our community.

In preparation for the new committee, Parish Councillors have been attending meetings of some the 11 pilot LJs to understand the procedures and process. The Council also recommends other community groups to attend pilot meetings as our LJC will be a potential source of future grant funding.

## Parish Council Budget 2009/10

### Payments

	£
Parish Maintenance	
Street Lighting	1,200
Hire of Skips	950
Bus Shelter Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance	970
Parish Plan Projects and Community Grants	800
Establishment	
Insurance	600
Meeting Room and Storage Hire	292
Subscriptions	300
Administration	
Clerk	3,104
Administration Expenses	200
Training	260
Audit Fees	275
Newsletter	750
Contingency	475
	<u>10,176</u>

### Income

Interest	200
VAT Refund	700
Misc	75
	<u>975</u>

### Budget Summary 2009/2010

Expenditure	£10,176	Transfer from Reserves	£1,556
Less Income	<u>£ 975</u>	Precept	<u>£7,645</u>
	<u>£ 9,201</u>		<u>£9,201</u>

## Penstemon Site

Anyone going through Welshampton will have noticed that the 'For Sale' sign on the Penstemon Development Site has been there for some while. In September 2008, NSDC, Penstemon and Shropshire Rural and Bromford Housing Associations briefed the Council on their initial plans to develop the site for a large number of properties.

### Serious Concerns

Following consideration the Council has some serious concerns regarding this project. In line with the comments made in the Parish Plan it is concerned whether any development would be for the benefit of locally connected people and also whether the site and current infrastructure could actually support the number of properties being considered. The Council has asked for clarification on these points.

## RAF Shawbury Visit

In response to an issue raised within the Parish Plan, some twenty residents replied to the article in our previous newsletter and visited RAF Shawbury in January. Here we were given a most comprehensive tour and explanation of the activities on the base which include Air Traffic Control training, and aircraft maintenance, in addition to the more obvious United Services Helicopter training squadron.

As a major employer in the region (approximately 500 civilians work there), the base is very important economically and it is also worthwhile reporting that the pilots for Shropshire Air Ambulance and the Police have trained there. As a matter of interest, a future heir to the throne is currently receiving helicopter pilot training! In due course, if there is further demand from residents, we will be able to organise another trip.

# Good Progress With Parish Plan

Work continues on a number of the items raised in the Parish Plan and not just by the Council. Here are two reports:

## Youth Project Update

Members of the new Youth Club project in Welshampton would like to thank everyone for the support they have received during the past few months. Carol singers braved the elements and donated the money raised, and the open meeting was well attended by the community in early December.

Those attending the meeting were treated to a professional presentation outlining the aims of the project. It was intended that the Club open in the New Year, at first once a month for school year 6 upwards, from 7 to 9pm. Although the young people wished to run the Club themselves there was a legal requirement for a responsible adult to be present during the evening and names were taken from those keen to help – a chance maybe to read that book or watch a DVD as no other involvement was expected.

It was clear that the young people had done their homework from the comprehensive answers they gave

to the many questions posed by adults present at the meeting, regarding finance, activities, insurance, responsibility and safety.

The group are now in the process of signing up with the Shropshire Youth Association and look forward to the reinstatement of the Youth Club.

**Ruth Evans**

## Parish Path Partnership (P3)

Our local P3 group has now carried out three walking surveys of footpaths, the latest being from Corner Farm on the A495 to Balmer at the B5063 (Footpath 10). We have six regular walkers, but more would be very welcome indeed.

The sorts of issues which we have found are overgrown stiles, incorrect routes where the original, definitive and statutory route has for some reason been changed, and fields where no route has been left by the landowner and walkers therefore have to walk over the standing crop. One or two waymark signposts need attention, and several electric fences need insulation to allow walkers to cross.

But overall the footpaths are in good condition and provide a great network of walking routes, short and long.

Our programme for the next two months is as follows, and as ever we would welcome anyone to our walks, whether as a one off or on a regular basis. We meet at 1.30 on the first Wednesday of each month.  
4 March: Meet at the Sun car park, to walk to the back of Ellesmere mere, around 7 kms.

1 April: Meet at the Sun car park, to walk from Hawthorn House up past Coptiviney, around 9 kms. This should be a lovely spring walk with wild flowers and hedges coming into leaf.

Distances are for “circular” walking. Please do join us. It’s fun and interesting at the same time. And we do not walk fast!

If you have any footpath issues you would like to pass on for P3 or County Council attention please do get in touch.

**George Rook**

P3 Co-ordinator

01948 710456

georgerook@ambamail.com

## Calling All Previous Councillors and Clerks!

The Council is trying to locate all old Parish Council records and, in particular, old minutes books dating prior to 1991. If you have any old records please contact the Clerk. All original documents, once recorded, will be passed for safe keeping to Shropshire Archives.

## Neighbourhood Watch

The North Shropshire Neighbourhood Watch Association is offering to hold a public meeting explaining the advantages and organisation of such schemes. If you are interested in attending a meeting and finding out more please contact the Clerk.

## Skip Dates

The dates for the collection of excess household waste have been booked:

Welshampton: 21 March 2009

Colemere: 28 March 2009

Lyneal: 4 April 2009

Please see notice boards for full details.

## Mud on Roads

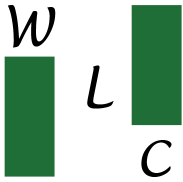
At the end of the Autumn, a number of residents reported that some roads around the Parish were left in a potentially dangerous state following harvesting and hedge trimming.

For the safety of other road users we would politely remind land owners that it is their responsibility to clear the roads following these operations.

## BT Phone Kiosks

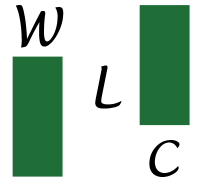
You may have seen in the media the reports about removing many BT payphones throughout the country. In this recent round of removals, 2 payphones, in Colemere and Welshampton were considered.

The Colemere Residents Association, ourselves and the District Council objected to the removal of the Colemere payphone on the grounds of public safety connected with the Mere. At the time of publication we believe the Colemere payphone will be retained but not the Welshampton payphone. However, residents encouraged the Council to apply under the ‘Adopt a Kiosk’ scheme and we hope that our application will be successful. This means the kiosk will remain as a land mark along the B5063.



## Useful Contact Details

For a more comprehensive list of local contacts please look at the Council's website [www.shrop.net/welshampton](http://www.shrop.net/welshampton)



### Parish Council

#### **Welshampton Ward**

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

#### **Lyneal Ward**

Bob Daniels  
Lawrence Houghton  
Chris Symes (Chair)

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

Carole Warner (Clerk) 01948 710672  
[welshamptonandlynealpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:welshamptonandlynealpc@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.shrop.net/welshampton](http://www.shrop.net/welshampton)

**North Shropshire DC** 01939 232771  
[www.northshropshiredc.gov.uk](http://www.northshropshiredc.gov.uk)  
Dog Warden 01939 238460  
*emergencies only* 07702 166039  
Environmental Health 01939 238460  
*including flytipping*  
Planning Dept 01939 238424

**Shropshire County Council** 0845 678 9000  
[customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk)  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk)  
*For all enquiries regarding Education, Highways, Social Services, Road Safety and Trading Standards*

**Shropshire Waste Partnership**  
0845 678 9009  
For all enquiries regarding waste, re-cycling and bulky waste collection service.

### 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](mailto:ellesmere.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)  
**Ellesmere Rural (Colemere and Lyneal)**  
01743 264704  
[ellesmererural.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ellesmererural.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

#### Community Contacts

##### **Welshampton Parish Hall**

General Enquiries & Bookings  
01948 710479

**Ellesmere Info-Link** 01691 624488  
[ellesmereinfo@northshropshiredc.gov.uk](mailto:ellesmereinfo@northshropshiredc.gov.uk)

##### **Shropshire Community Directory**

01743 255305  
[community.info@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:community.info@shropshire.gov.uk)  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/community.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/community.nsf)

**Countryside Services** 01743 255061  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf)

##### **Countryside Community Projects**

01691 624448  
[countryside.conservation@shropshire-cc.gov.uk](mailto:countryside.conservation@shropshire-cc.gov.uk)

**RAF Shawbury** 01939 250351

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