

Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 4 - June 2009

Welcome.....

to the fourth issue of your Parish Council newsletter. Usually it is subjects within the Parish Plan which most strongly feature in the newsletter, but as the Annual Report (which contains much information on the Parish Plan) is included in the envelope with this, there is space in this issue to cover some of the other matters the Council is currently involved with.

The publication of an Annual Report is one of the requirements of Quality Council accreditation, which the Council is working towards. At present, a stumbling block for us as a Council is its make up, as the majority of Councillors have been co-opted rather than elected. However, judging by the turnout at some recent events, such as the Annual Meeting, the Balmer meeting and the enthusiastic support of the main village activities, there is a thriving community spirit and we hope that on the next occasion that there are Councillor vacancies, there will be more residents coming forward to serve as Parish Councillors.

With the current massive publicity and public concern on M.P.'s expenses, we are sure that residents will be pleased to be reminded that at your Parish Council (the first level of democracy in this country) the serving Councillors receive no remuneration or expenses.

I hope you enjoy this edition of your Parish newsletter. As always, please advise any comments on its content, or any other Parish matter, to the Parish Clerk.

Chris Symes

Chair of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

B5063 — Traffic!

At the end of April the Council organised a public meeting at the Parish Hall for residents living along the B5063. Its purpose was to discuss their concerns about the road with Shropshire Council's Traffic Management Officer for our area. Prior to meeting, the Officer walked along The Balmer with local residents and members of the Parish Council so to experience first hand some of the issues.

The public meeting was well supported with 25 residents attending. Nearly all of those present had an experience to share, ranging from houses shaking when large articulated lorries pass to near misses of accidents when cycling or walking.

It was generally agreed that because the road is 'de-restricted' (maximum speed 60mph) it encourages traffic to speed and most considered the speed limit is wrong. The number of large articulated lorries using the road has also increased over the last few years — more than likely the result of satellite navigation!

Various options to try to reduce the problems were discussed and most agreed the extension of the 30mph at The Balmer with a 40mph buffer zone following it would be a start. Weight restrictions on

the road and creating a cycle/footpath avoiding the dangerous bends altogether were other ideas.

The Traffic Officer agreed to discuss the options with colleagues but explained due to costs and scheduling of work even if something was agreed we may not see the result for some time. He did accept a new survey of the traffic using the B5063 should be carried out.

The Council supports the extension of the 30mph speed limit together with a 40mph buffer zone. Chris Symes reassured residents at the meeting that these issues would not be forgotten and the Council would monitor progress. Regarding enforcement of speed limits, he advised the 'Speedwatch' programme is being re-instated. The Council has a Parish co-ordinator in place and ready to act once the Police has given the go ahead.

For a full report of the meeting - look at the website under 'Keeping You Informed'.

Future Council Meetings

Wednesday 24 June 7pm

Wednesday 22 July 7pm

Wednesday 26 August 7pm

All meetings are held at Welshampton Parish Hall.

Please do come along!

The Council's 'AGM'

The Annual Meeting of the Council, the equivalent of its AGM, was held on Wednesday May 6 with both the Chair, Chris Symes, and the Vice-Chair, Caroline Hamilton, being re-elected.

Representatives to outside bodies and committees were appointed as follows:

Emergency Planning Officer: Ruth Evans

Shropshire Association of Local Councils: Lawrence Houghton

Local Joint Committee: Chris Symes

Partners and Communities Together (PACT): Sarah Jefferies

Welshampton Parish Hall Management Committee: Bob Daniels and Richard Hall

Welshampton Pre-School Management Committee: Caroline Hamilton

Planning Committee: Chris Symes, Margaret Evans, Caroline Hamilton, Richard Hall, Lawrence Houghton and Sarah Jefferies

Communications Advisory Committee: Chris Symes, Lawrence Houghton, Ian Yates and Carole Warner.

Our Member of Shropshire Council

Earlier this month Brian Williams was elected as Councillor for The Meres division of Shropshire Council. Here is an introduction to Brian.

Brian lives in Loppington and is married to Pam. Until recent retirement Brian was a safety consultant in the construction industry. He does not hold 'surgeries' in such a widespread area but is happy to be contacted on his home phone number by any resident who has a Shropshire Council matter they wish to discuss.

Brian tries to attend many of the events held by villages in the division and is always pleased if residents introduce themselves to him for a chat about any issues which concern them.

Brian's number: 01939 234198

Parish Hall Update

Over the last year the Parish Hall Management Committee has worked together looking for ways to promote greater use of the Hall by the community and by anyone else who wishes to use it for public and private functions. In addition, the financial position has been reviewed.

On Monday 13 July at 7pm the Committee will be holding its Annual General Meeting. All residents and regular users are invited to attend and hear how the Committee has managed the Hall over the last year. There will also be a question and answer session so if you have any suggestions, comments or just interested in finding out more about the Committee and what it does, please come along.

Your Parish Hall

During the consultation for the Parish Plan there were several points made about the Parish Hall like internet access, homework

facilities and adult education. The Committee would like to know if these comments are still relevant and whether there are other areas it should be looking at. For example, the Computer Classes were stopped due to College spending cuts. Would you like the Committee to look into organising them itself? Let the Committee know!

Wanted Urgently

The current Secretary and Treasurer wish to retire after some years service. The Committee is looking for two volunteers to fill these very important roles. If you are interested in supporting your community and can spare a few hours every quarter in attending our meetings, taking minutes, doing a little bit of paperwork and compiling basic accounts then please contact the Chair, Bob Daniels on 01939 270312.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

Local Joint Committees

Shropshire Council has now confirmed the areas of the new Local Joint Committees (LJCs) for Shropshire. 28 LJCs were approved with Welshampton and Lyneal Parish being placed in Committee 2 with Ellesmere Town Council, Ellesmere Rural Parish Council and Cocksutt cum Petton Parish Council. Each Council will send one representative and they will be joined by 3 members of Shropshire Council to make up the LJC.

The LJCs will start in July 2009 and will meet four times per year. They will be able to make decisions about the local delivery of a range of services, call council officers or councillors to account on local services, act as a formal consultation route to the new council and will have a delegated budget to spend on local priorities.

The Budget for our LJC for this year has been agreed at £28,000.

Each LJC has a designated

Lead Officer allocated by Shropshire Council who is responsible for the correct working of the committee. In addition to the Lead Officer, each LJC is supported by a Community Officer from the Community Working Team.

Corrie Davies has been appointed the Community Officer for our LJC and came to our Parish Meeting in May to start to know our area and the local issues that matter to our residents. Corrie will ensure that she makes contact with community groups and organisations in order that any appropriate applications for grants from the budget are made to the LJC.

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council will also be talking to local groups encouraging them to take their activities forward through funding from the LJC and assisting with their applications.

If you are part of a group or know of a project needing funding and wish to find out more, please contact the Clerk.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 13 May saw a bit of a difference! The Council had organised a "Question Time" style event as part of the meeting for candidates to represent our parish in the new Shropshire Council. The meeting had been well publicised so it was very pleasing that a number of residents came to put their questions to the candidates.

The meeting started with the Chair's report which was based on the Annual Report enclosed with this newsletter. Ruth Evans followed with an update of progress with the Parish Plan. Then came 'Question Time'.

Each Candidate was given 5 minutes to introduce themselves to the audience. They then answered questions from the audience which covered the following topics:

- The candidates past record on school closures.
- The effect of school closures on local communities.



- How candidates would fill the £1.5 million shortfall in education finances.
- How they would build rural communities economically.
- How candidates would solve local public transport problems.
- Their views on housing in rural areas and in particular affordable housing.
- What, in their opinion, glues a community together.
- The one thing candidates would do if elected.
- Their views on local road safety issues.

All candidates had the opportunity to put their points to the audience. There was good discussion between candidates and the audience to the extent that the meeting went on slightly longer than planned due to the number of questions and debate. The meeting was deemed to be a success by residents and candidates alike!

Residents can be re-assured that all three gentlemen went away with the areas of most concern to the parish in-bedded in their minds.

Welshampton School

We reported in the last newsletter that the School Governors were holding a consultation meeting regarding changing to Foundation Status. The Governors have subsequently decided to put the matter on hold until they have been able to assess the approach taken to rural school by the newly elected Shropshire Council. We will keep you informed.

Mud on Roads

Over the next few months harvesting and hedge trimming will start. 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.

"Best Kept Village"

Residents may re-call the annual competitions for the most clean, well cared for and picturesque villages. Today, competitions are not just about pretty villages, they are about community spirit and seek the involvement of the whole village community, all age groups and organisations. This not only fosters greater pride in a village, but it can increase tourism and interest in the area.

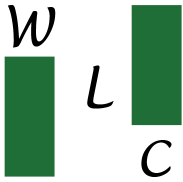
In Shropshire, The Community Council co-ordinates the Calor Village of the Year® competition. Yes, the LPG company! The competition gives smaller communities the chance to put their village through its paces. It's a search for the most vibrant, enterprising and sustainable communities, but with all

competitions it is the taking part that counts.

If you are interested and would like to know more just go onto the internet and visit www.calorvillageoftheyear.org and www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk. Or, contact one of the councillors or the Clerk and maybe, one of our villages will enter the competition!

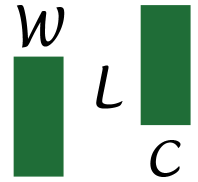
Colemere Guided Walk for Dog Owners

Residents may be interested to know that the County's Countryside department are organising two guided walks around the nature reserve on Sunday 5 July at 11.15am and 2.15pm. Bring your dog and take the opportunity to chat to the Ranger about your needs as a dog walker. The walk is free.



Useful Contact Details

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

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams 01939 234198

Shropshire Council 0345 678 9000

Customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk
www.shropshire.gov.uk
Benefits 0345 678 9001
Council tax 0345 678 9002
Business rates 0345 678 9003
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
Corporate fax 0345 678 9011
Dog Warden 0845 678 9018
emergencies only 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@northshropshiredc.gov.uk

Shropshire Community Directory

01743 255305
community.info@shropshire.gov.uk
www.shropshire.gov.uk/community.nsf

Countryside Services 01743 255061
www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf

Countryside Community Projects

01691 624448
countryside.conservation@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

RAF Shawbury 01939 250351

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