

# Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 9 - March 2011

## Hello and welcome.....

to the first issue in 2011, which is already promising to be another challenging year for your Parish Council. Probably about the same time as you receive this newsletter you will be receiving your Council Tax demand from Shropshire Council for 2011/12 and you will see that there is no increase in the Parish Council precept – the amount that each household pays for the services carried out by the Parish Council on your behalf. In these difficult financial times it was an objective of the Parish Council to avoid any increase being paid next financial year and this has been achieved by using reserves from previous years, rather than by making any drastic cuts in service, about which we hear on a daily basis. We will include a detailed breakdown of this year's accounts and the 2011/12 budget in our next issue.

Amongst the articles herein is an introduction from a new Councillor representing Welshampton, Mr Peter Gee. The vacancy was

created by the resignation of Mrs Peggy Evans after a long and dedicated service on the Parish Council. Mrs Evans was invited to the December meeting when she was presented with a gift from the Councillors in recognition of her contribution to the community and her good citizenship. On behalf of the community – thank you, Mrs Evans. The Parish Council was encouraged by the fact that a number of residents applied for the vacancy, so that an election by Councillors was required, resulting in Peter Gee's appointment.

This newsletter is produced as the direct result of your request for more information, during the formation of the Parish Plan. However, since then the Parish Council web site has been introduced and even more households have internet access, so to keep informed between newsletters go to [www.2shrop.net/welshampton](http://www.2shrop.net/welshampton), or attend one of the regular Parish Council meetings.

Chris Symes

## Traffic and Highways Update

### Proposed Village Speed Limits

In mid December the Parish Council received a letter from Shropshire Council regarding the Village Speed Limits Programme. The letter stated the following: "As a result of budgetary constraints, Shropshire Council will be unable to implement a new village speed limit in Balmer, Breaden Heath and Lyneal that was programmed for this financial year. Furthermore, we are currently waiting news of the available funding for the next financial year to see how we will progress. Unless next year's funding announcement is significantly greater than expected, it is unlikely that the programme will progress in 2011/12."

Although not surprised by the letter, the Parish Council is disappointed by the news as Councillors and local residents have worked hard to bring the speeding traffic problems to the attention of Shropshire Council.

### Highways Improvements: Junction A495 and A528

Over the last few months residents will have noticed the road works at Spunhill and Tunnel Bank. This stretch of road has been of concern to the Parish Council for many years so the start of the improvements has been encouraging. The next stage will be earthworks, drainage and patching, hopefully in the summer.

The Parish Council understands that the whole project

was planned over a 2 to 3 year period and it hopes funds will still be made available.

### Winter Gritting

During the recent bad weather the Parish Council could not understand why the school bus route from Lyneal to the B5063 was not included in the road gritting programme. The matter was raised with Shropshire Council's Highways Dept and initially the Dept could not see how it could be included.

However, perseverance by the Parish Council has resulted in one success in these difficult financial times. Shropshire Council has now committed to grit the lane during school term times.

Mixed progress overall but the Parish Council continues to work on your behalf.

# Ellesmere Local Joint Committee

To remind everyone, Local Joint Committees (LJCs) were set up to enable people across Shropshire to get more involved in the decision making of Shropshire Council. The latest meeting for the Ellesmere LJC was held in our Parish Hall on 8 February.

This coming year will see changes to the LJC as a direct result of cut backs being made by Shropshire Council. There will be 3, reduced from 4, meetings throughout the year and funding to support community services will be reduced. Another change is that Corrie Davies, our Community Action Officer (CAO) will be moving onto a different area. Corrie has helped groups within our parish go through the grant process and we wish her well in her new role. We look forward to welcoming our new CAO, Julie Ruler.

One of the roles of a LJC is to scrutinise local service delivery and to call Shropshire Council's leading members or senior officers to attend meetings and explain decisions affecting their locality. Something your Parish Council will not be forgetting in this time of cut backs!

## Introducing Our New Councillor

Peter Gee was born and brought up in Rutland. Peter has been involved with retail businesses since leaving Keele University in 1972, with a degree in Law and economics.

Peter was Managing Director of Stead and Simpson Ltd and later Barratts Shoes. He and his wife Karen moved to North Shropshire in 2005 and he is now semi retired.

At last having some time, he is now keen to become more involved in the local community. His hobbies are tennis, skiing and walking his four dogs.

# Welshampton Parish Hall

The Management Committee of the Parish Hall would like to thank all those who attended the Quiz Night that was held on 22nd January and also thanks to Angie and Chris Symes for arranging the buffet supper and composing the questions. The event raised over £800 towards the running costs of the Parish Hall, the evening was a great success.

Running and improvement costs for the hall have increased dramatically over the years and the Committee would like to hold more fundraising events throughout the year, so please support these events as much as you can. The next fundraiser will be a hog roast so please keep an eye out for details. The Committee are also thinking of hosting a free 'After Royal Wedding Tea Party' for the whole Parish. If you are interested in helping to organise this event then please contact Caroline Hamilton on 01948 710407. The Committee would like to put on events that you would like to attend, so If you have a suggestion please let us know by speaking to a committee member or contacting Caroline on the above number. Ideas have included discos and bingo nights, but this will depend on your interest. Anyone who wishes to become more active with the running of events or the management of the hall is very welcome to attend one of our monthly meetings.

The Management Committee are looking at ways to provide greener and cost effective ways to supply heat and electricity to the hall, more information will be published on this shortly. Finally, if you would like to book the hall for an event then please contact Lorraine Jones on 01948 710687.

## Get Involved With Rural Watch

Rural communities are proving how effective it is to "get involved" by signing up to help tackle crime. Rural Watch, an information sharing and advice scheme, has now more than 570 members and goes from strength to strength.

Although we live in a relatively low crime area, we all know someone who has been victim of crime such as theft. Rural Watch is a two way information sharing scheme where Police inform members of any potential threats quickly and easily. Just as importantly, members are able to share information such as suspicious persons or vehicles with the Police and other members. Messages are sent via email, voice or text within hours of an incident taking place.

For more information contact the Clerk or visit [www.safer-shropshire.org](http://www.safer-shropshire.org)

## Mobile Libraries

Some good news in these times of cutbacks is that following a review of the Mobile Library Service it will continue although with some alterations.

The new route and times for our parish are:

- Hampton Wood, Hampton Wood Farm: 9.40 to 10.10am
- Breaden Heath: 10.15 to 10.30
- Welshampton Village Hall: 10.40 to 11.10am
- Balmer: 11.20 to 11.30am
- Hampton Bank: 11.40 to 11.55
- Lyneal: 12.05 to 12.15am
- Colemere: 12.20 to 12.35am

The Library will visit alternative Wednesdays starting in April.

## Dates For Your Diary

<b>Council Meetings</b>	
Wednesday 23 March	7pm
Wednesday 27 April	7pm
Wednesday 25 May	7pm

<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	
Wednesday 11 May	7.30pm
All meetings are in the Parish Hall	

# Planning Issues in the Parish

## Can the Parish Council make any difference?

One question often asked of the Parish Council is “What influence do you have over development in the parish?” Although the final decision is made by Shropshire Council, Parish Councils are statutory consultees on planning applications and over the last few months there have been a number of applications that, if approved, would have had lasting impact on the character and distinctiveness of our villages and countryside. The Parish Council has managed to influence the final decision made by Shropshire Council by ensuring it understands the planning process and responding with relevant and accurate comments. Below is a summary of the most recent applications, the action taken and the end result.

However, not all residents acknowledge the existence of the planning process prior to starting and during any developments. The Council does not approve of any unauthorised development in the Parish. It is also unfair to the vast majority of residents who investigate and go through the correct planning process. The Council strongly supports the use of the planning process to enhance the quality of the rural environment and to make a positive contribution to the social and economic health of the community.

### The ‘Penstemon’ Site

This site is to the rear of Old Shop Farm and Hazel Cottage in the middle of Welshampton. The developer wished to develop the site with 18 affordable dwellings. The Parish Council considered this would have a vast impact on the centre of the village so a Public Meeting was called. Over 30 residents attended and others submitted written comments.

The consensus of opinion was that the application was too large and dense, would cause further pressure on the A495, would cause serious problems and pressure on the local drainage system and was totally inappropriate. The Parish Council submitted a detailed response in objection to Shropshire Council. Having reviewed the response, supported by comments from individual residents and other consultees, Shropshire Council advised the developer to withdraw his application.

The Parish Council will use the comments made by residents as an indication of what is and what is not wanted by residents in any future consultation or development proposal.

### Colemere Sheds

This application proposed to convert a ‘commercial’ store into a one bedroom dwelling. The store is situated near to Mill Lane within the boundaries of Colemere Country Park. The Parish Council strongly opposed this application on planning policy grounds together with the belief that it was totally inappropriate in a nature reserve and internationally recognised important site.

As Planning Officers supported the application, Shropshire Council’s Planning Committee would determine the final decision. This stage of the process did not start well with the Parish Council discovering the Committee was not intending to visit the site to take on board all the comments made. This was rectified and on a very snowy morning a site visit was carried out. The Parish Council and Mr Bob Daniels, on behalf of local residents, made representations at the Committee Meeting to enforce the opposition to the application. After lengthy discussion, the Committee supported the views of the Parish Council and residents and declined the application.

## Update on The Sun Inn

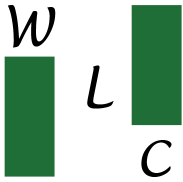
In early December the owner of The Sun Inn site, Mr Trevor Owen, requested a meeting with the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council. During the meeting Mr Owen outlined his current proposals and asked that they be considered by the Parish Council. The proposals included the opening of the Sun but due to changes in the economic climate Mr Owen was requesting Shropshire Council withdraw the requirement of 2 affordable houses in any plans.

The Parish Council considered the proposals at its meeting in December and the minutes are set out below:

“Following lengthy discussions ... the Parish Council may be minded not to object to the revised proposals put forward informally at this stage by the developer of the Sun Inn site subject to the following strict conditions:

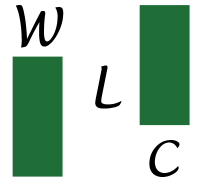
- 1) The investment, redevelopment and renovation works proposed for the Sun Inn are carried out and completed in accordance with approved plans, indicating sufficient investment to develop it, and the Inn is reopened as a high quality establishment, both done prior to any commencement of the development and construction of the proposed residential development on the site, and
- 2) A financial contribution is made towards a community asset (to be identified and amount to be agreed), to be made prior to the commencement of the development and construction of the proposed residential development on the site, and
- 3) The developer to provide a written undertaking to Shropshire Council, at the time any application to redevelop the site is lodged, that he agrees to comply with the above conditions.

It was felt that the prioritising of these community facilities could be justified over the provision of the 2 proposed affordable houses, in these circumstances.”



## Useful Contact Details

For a more comprehensive list of local contacts please look at the Council's website [www.2shrop.net/welshampton](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk)  
[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://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](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 710687

#### **Ellesmere Info-Link**

01691 624488

[ellesmereinfo@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellesmereinfo@shropshire.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 Ranger for Colemere

Harvey Morgan 01691 624448

[harvey.morgan@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:harvey.morgan@shropshire.gov.uk)

### Countryside Community Projects

01691 624448

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

### RAF Shawbury

01939 250351

### Contact Information

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For further information please contact the Clerk:

Carole Warner on 01948 710672

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