



Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 21 - February 2015

Hello and welcome....

to the latest edition of your parish newsletter, this time the largest yet.

Once again, there are articles herein in which volunteers are being sought. Yes, many households are working families with busy family lives but our parish has a high proportion of retired people, often the best able to do voluntary work, and so we shouldn't have a shortfall of volunteers. So, please ask yourself, do you need to clean the car again, or cut the grass so soon? Can't you afford to give an hour or two each week for the good of the community? Of course some organisations have enthusiastic support, an example being the "Bonfire Committee" who recently put on another excellent panto at the Parish Hall. Please look at the volunteering opportunities.

Since the last edition in October 2014 there has been yet another well-attended parish meeting, this time in response to the application by Tudor Griffiths Ltd to extend the quarrying operation onto land across the Colemere to Spunhill road. A representative of the company explained the proposals and the effect on the landscape, the road and the community, and many parish residents asked questions and expressed concerns. Subsequently the Parish Council has resolved to object to the application for a number of reasons which can be seen on the Parish Council's web site and Shropshire Council's planning web site. It remains to be seen if Shropshire Council will approve or reject the application, but the decision is not expected in the immediate future.

As far as other planning applications are concerned, Shropshire Council's failure to have a government approved local development plan (SAMDev) in place in time, means that the government's National Development Policy Framework (NDPF) continues to take precedence over local wishes and, as you will be aware, this has led to Shropshire Council approving developments in places not approved by the Parish Council or the vast majority of local people. However, a government inspector is currently examining Shropshire Council's SAMDev and as time draws closer to the inspector's (hoped for) favourable decision, more weight can be given in planning decision making to the local plan rather than the national one. This should then bring to an end (hopefully during 2015) the unwelcome, unnecessary, speculative property development that Welshampton is experiencing,

Overleaf you will find the finances for the Parish Council showing last year's actual expenditure and income, this year's anticipated, and next year's budget which is for the year from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The budget is the figure on which the Parish Council element of your Shropshire Council Tax bill (the precept) will be based and whilst it looks like a significant % increase, it actually works out at only 18p per week for a council tax band D property. Details of the reasons for the increase are overleaf.

In your envelope with this newsletter you will have found your copy of the 2015 Parish Plan. This has been over a year in the making, with reviews of the old plan, questionnaires and parish meetings, as explained in the document. The Plan has been adopted by the Parish Council and it now becomes a key part in the Parish Council's objectives during the next five years. It is your money which has paid for the Plan and the Parish Councillors would like to hope that you keep your copy as a reference and reminder of the community's aspirations.

There's a lot to read in this issue, and so I hope it achieves its objective of helping to keep you informed about your Parish Council's activities.

Chris Symes

Also enclosed: Ellesmere Patients' Group questionnaire (see article on page 7, Welshampton Primary School Governors Newsletter and flyer for The Harmonettes production of Dorothy's War

Parish Council Budget 2015 / 2016

The Parish Council has taken on a number of additional responsibilities over the years, in response to residents' requests (through the Parish Plan), such as the parish hall grounds, Stocks Lane car park, the sports court, and Balmer telephone kiosk, and obviously these all need maintenance. The 2015 Parish Plan is now complete and so the Councillors believe that it is prudent to budget for this as there are cost implications with some of the items identified. These two areas account for approximately two thirds of the increased costs, the rest being due to the fact that Shropshire Council has decided this year not to pass on the Council Tax Support Grant to Parish Councils despite stating previously that it would, and this would probably have been over £700 next year for this Parish Council.

In recent years Councillors have kept increases in the precept to the minimum by transferring monies from the small reserves that the Parish Council has to keep for emergencies, but the reserves are now at the recommended level and therefore it would be imprudent to transfer more than is being budgeted for, just in case an emergency expense arises for which the Parish Council is responsible.

The result of all these factors is that it is necessary to raise the precept as shown, and this relates to an annual increase per Band D household of 18p per week.

Payments	Actual 2013/14	Anticipated 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
General Administration			
Clerk Salary / Allowance	£4,788.65	£5,595.33	£5,100.00
Admin Expenses/Audit	£767.99	£1,158.00	£1,175.00
Newsletter/Notice Boards	£1,390.20	£1,290.75	£1,500.00
Training	£30.00	£210.00	£310.00
Establishment			
Insurance	£591.32	£609.05	£625.00
Meeting Room Hire	£380.00	£200.00	£200.00
Subscriptions	£338.92	£356.46	£385.00
Parish Maintenance			
Street Lighting	£576.49	£1,970.00	£1,800.00
Grounds Maintenance	£1,032.00	£1,012.50	£1,650.00
Stocks Lane Car Park			£500.00
Sports Court			£250.00
Balmer Phone Box			£250.00
Elections			
Election Costs		£200.00	
Other			
Power of General Competence	£515.00		
S137		£1,100.00	
Churchyards	£350.00	£350.00	£350.00
Parish Plan		£550.00	£2,000.00
Sports Court		£159.96	
Parish Plan Grant		£1,000.00	
IT Grant		£900.00	
P3 Expenditure		£200.00	
Walking Leaflets		£1,490.00	
Contingency			£500.00
Total excl VAT	£10,760.57	£18,352.05	£16,595.00
VAT	£261.37	£600.00	£560.00
Total incl VAT	£11,021.94	£18,952.05	£17,155.00

Receipts	Actual 2013/14	Anticipated 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
Precept	£12,080.00	£12,686.00	£16,000.00
Interest	£5.14	£5.80	£5.00
VAT Refund	£393.32	£261.37	£600.00
Council Tax Support Grant	£695.00	£777.00	
Other	£2,190.00	£1,392.50	
Sub Total	£15,363.46	£15,122.67	£16,605.00
Transfer from/to Reserves	£4,341.52	£3,829.38	£550.00
Total	£11,021.94	£18,952.05	£17,155.00

Reserves 2014/2015

Balance as at 1 April 2014	£10,506.83
Less transfer to Budget 2014/2015	-£3,829.38
Anticipated Reserves 31 March 2015	£6,677.45
Less transfer to Budget 2015/16	-£550.00
Anticipated Reserves 31 March 2016	£6,127.45

Breakdown of Reserves

Earmarked Reserves	
Elections	£1,200.00
Parish Plan	£900.00
Contingency Reserves	£4,027.45
	£6,127.45

Phone Boxes

In November Shropshire Council received formal notification from British Telecommunications plc (BT) that they proposed the permanent removal of the kiosks and telephony in Welshampton, Lyneal and Colemere. This formed part of a large scale programme of proposed removals including old style red kiosks and modern style enclosed and open kiosks.

The Parish Council was subsequently consulted and it was agreed to object to the removal of all 3 phone kiosks. The main reason for objection is that mobile phone reception in this area is appalling - not a single service provider covers the whole area properly. At least until the mobile coverage is improved to a satisfactory level, these phone boxes must be retained for emergencies

Dial 999 or 112?

When the Parish Council was considering its response to the BT consultation it was reminded about the phone number 112. 112 is the European-wide standard number that will connect you to the emergency services wherever you are in Europe including the UK. So remember you can dial either 999 or 112.

Meeting Dates

Council Meetings - start 7pm

Wednesday 25 February
Wednesday 25 March
Wednesday 22 April
Wednesday 20 May – please note
3rd Wednesday

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 May.
All meetings are in the Parish Hall

Welshampton Church of England Primary School

February 2015

Life in school has been as busy as ever. All our current building plans and improvements have been completed and school is looking great. Back in the Autumn term we launched our wrap around care provision which is proving to be very successful and well attended. It's wonderful that we can now provide care for children from 8am (Breakfast Club) until 5:50pm five days a week which also includes a snack tea.

Our school family has continued to grow and we have recently welcomed six new children and their families. Each

class is thoroughly enjoying their current topics. Class 1 are thrilled to be learning about dinosaurs while Class 2 children are intrepid historians as they learn about the ancient Greeks. Class 3 have completed their final trip as part of the John Muir Award and this term, are exploring earth and space.

We are fortunate to be working with Shropshire Wildlife Trust as we seek to further enhance our provision of natural habitats for local wildlife and look forward to sharing this work with the wider community once it is completed.

Mrs Heather Cawkwell
Head Teacher

New website

The Parish Council has recently changed its email address to: clerk@welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk.

It has also moved its website from 2Shrop.net to its own site www.welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk. Both the email address and website name are rather long but this is to comply with government protocols.

The website is in its basic format at the moment but will develop over the next few months. It is hoped to include pages and news of local community groups so if you wish to publicise a local event please email the clerk — at the new email address!

www.facebook.com/welshamptonlynealandcolemercommunity



Visit us on
Facebook

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Hall

Happy New Year to you all and we hope you had a happy and healthy Christmas break.

2015 looks to be a promising year for us at the Parish Hall as we start to make our improvements and this means we will also be doing plenty of fundraising throughout the year to pay for it.

The Harmonettes will be returning to the hall on Saturday 11th April so keep an eye out for tickets as their last appearance went down a storm.

For bookings contact Lorraine Jones on 01948 710687, email lojo41@btinternet.com.

Look forward to seeing you all soon,

Caroline Hamilton.
Chair, Welshampton Parish Hall

Welshampton 'Down 2 Earth'

My Name is Luke Neal, Community Officer for the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme. We are working across North Shropshire in partnership with a wide range of organisations, landowners and businesses to help protect and improve the fabulous natural riches of the Meres and Mosses region of North Shropshire.

In Welshampton and Lyneal Parish we have paid for additional management at Colemere and are working with local landowners to improve special sites locally. Our community grant helped to pay for the '5 Welshampton Walks' leaflets which were created by the hard work of residents of the Parish. We hope that Welshampton School will apply for a grant to create a mini-wetland on the school field. Community grants and farm grants are still open for applications.

Throughout 2015 I will be focussing on Welshampton village through a project called 'Down 2 Earth'. This will provide opportunities to learn more about the special place you live in and offer you the chance to take action to protect it into the future.

If you would like to get involved and find out more I would be delighted to see you at one of my events:

7th March: work party to reduce the rhododendron and thin the woodland at the mere edge, Meet at Colemere car park at 10am.

8th March: we are mammal trapping at Colemere Church, arrive for 9.30am to meet the residents in

the undergrowth.

Spring to Autumn: water vole surveying in the field includes training to anyone who wants to find out more.

June: surveying for The Small Pearl bordered Fritillary butterfly which was thought to have become locally extinct. However it was rediscovered after a 20 year absence in Ellesmere and we have now found it in Welshampton. Training is included.

Summer: there is the chance to learn about habitat surveying and get out in your local area to map habitats that helps to inform our conservation work.

Water quality is a key issue for the area and if anyone wishes to test the quality of a watercourse, ditch or pond on their property then I have kits available to borrow. I also have leaflets on how to keep your septic tank running correctly without causing pollution.

Look out for other events which we will publicise locally, or let me know if you have your own ideas for events you would like to see happen.

Please get in touch if you are interested in any of the activities above:

Luke Neal,
Community Officer,
Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme
c/o Shropshire Wildlife Trust,
193 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH
Tel 01743 284275,
luken@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk
www.themeressandmosses.co.uk

Welshampton Plant Fair

Monday 4th May, 12 noon to 3pm
Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Hall

This year will be our 10th anniversary! We are planning to offer an even greater selection of fabulous plants in our Grand Plant Sale and "Special Plants" Auction to tempt gardeners, and also to arrange some special items in celebration.

This year the event will have as its emblem its own rose named Welshampton Fair, a beautiful butter-yellow floribunda very kindly donated for the auction. And, for this year's finale following on from the Auction, we are delighted to welcome **Jan Lomas**, the very experienced Head Gardener at The Duke and Duchess of Westminster's Eaton Hall, who is sure to inspire visitors with her informal talk "**My Passion for Borders**", with some great tips to share.

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations, the entrance hall will be specially decorated by Ruth Clarke NDSF, floristry lecturer at Reaseheath College. We shall also be raffling a gorgeous home-made fruit cake, ready iced and perfect for your own special event.

Back by popular demand, our giant sunflower competition will again celebrate the life of Tom Hancock, the popular village teenager who loved growing sunflowers before losing his life to muscular dystrophy some 18 months ago.

We would very much appreciate everyone's support again this year.

The Fair Committee



Parish Emergency Plan

The Parish Council is in the process of drawing up an Emergency Plan. The purpose of the Emergency Plan is to provide a clear and workable framework which will enable the Parish Council and its representatives to respond to an extremely rare sort of emergency.

This would be an emergency affecting the local area which posed significant danger to life, limb or property and one where the Emergency Services alone could not be expected to cope without local assistance.

Examples include prolonged power cuts, prolonged periods of severe winter weather blocking local roads or a pandemic such as Hong Kong flu affecting many local residents.

This is where you can help! In the very unlikely event of the Parish Emergency Plan ever having to be put into operation, volunteers would be needed.

Volunteers could help in many ways. You may have a vehicle which can clear a blocked road. You may be willing to use your car to collect shopping for someone sick or housebound. You may have a portable generator which you are willing to make available. You might simply be prepared to check on vulnerable people in your immediate area who need help and pass on details to others who could provide assistance.

Volunteering will not commit you to any obligation. If a serious emergency occurs and you are not able or willing, for whatever reason, to provide help at that time that will not be a problem. Obviously, the more people willing to volunteer, the better.

If you wish to put yourself forward, please write to or email the Clerk (contact details on last page).

Please include the following:

Name and address (including postcode), home telephone number, mobile telephone number if you have one and your email address if you have one.

The Parish Council is looking forward to hearing from you!

Local Joint Committees

Over the last year Local Joint Committees (LJCs) across the county have been considering how they can be flexible and adapt to the changing environment they find themselves operating in, for example Shropshire Council's aim to become a commissioning council and commission services locally. Some LJCs have already brought in changes – others are working on them.

During 2015–2017 LJCs will locally commission youth activity in their areas and will receive Shropshire Council funding for this work. This reflects Shropshire Council's ambition for LJCs to become local governance structures that enable local Shropshire Councillors, town and parish councils, communities and partners to shape and influence how public money is spent locally.

Changes being considered include:

- The membership of the LJC. Presently only Shropshire and Town and Parish Councillors are members. Some LJCs wish to ask local representatives for local partner organisations to join the LJC by co-option. This is allowed for under the LJCs constitution but co-opted members do not have the right to a vote.
- Who chairs the LJC. Currently it can only be a Shropshire Councillor,
- The actual name. It is not easily understood and a change of name might attract more public participation.
- Working with other local organisations to share meetings and the responsibility for organising them.

If you have opinions on the structure, organisation or function of the LJC in our area please let a Councillor or the Clerk know. We will make sure they are included in future discussions.



For many people in Shropshire there is no easy alternative to using the car, but now there is an easy way to reduce the cost of driving.

In partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council, Shropshire Council has launched Shropshare, a county-wide car-share initiative which is free to join and use for individuals and organisations alike. Shropshare allows you to easily look for people travelling in the same direction with whom to share your journey.

Once you've registered on www.shropshare.co.uk the database will check your details and preferences to enable a list of potential sharers to be created i.e. people who live near you or on your route and who match your preferences. You can then contact people from the list and make a car sharing arrangement that works for you all.

Fuel Buying Scheme

Last year UK heating oil prices fell to a three year low and prices have continued to fall in recent months. In January 2015 Shropshire RCC Fuel Buying Scheme members were able to access heating oil prices for under 34ppl. If you would like to stock up and save on your oil bills this winter then please contact us to make sure you don't miss out.

The scheme encourages households in rural Shropshire to purchase their heating oil together. Members benefit from cheaper fuel by being part of a group that can negotiate discount bulk-buying rates.

Since its inception nearly three years ago, members have accessed the most competitive heating oil prices in Shropshire, with some reporting savings of up to 5 pence per litre.

We have also added bulk LPG and cylinders to our service at very competitive rates.

As a rural charity Shropshire RCC works to tackle the issues surrounding fuel poverty. The buying scheme enables all off-gas residents in Shropshire access to cheaper fuel prices.

The scheme is open to individuals, businesses and community buildings in Shropshire. Join today and see how much you could save. Annual membership fees apply: domestic £24, community building £36 and business £110.

For more information call 01743342167 or email oil@shropshire-rcc.org.uk
You can now join the scheme online by visiting our website <http://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/services/individuals/oil-buying-scheme>.

Please note other fuel buying schemes are available.

Council Tax Bill by email

Do you currently receive your annual council tax bill in the post?

If so, we want to persuade you to receive your bill by email instead – something which could help to save the council thousands of pounds as we would no longer need to print and post your bill.

All you have to do is visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-paperless-billing/, before 20 February 2015, click on the link, and then enter your council tax reference and your personal details.

If you don't know your council tax reference – and I'm sure most of you won't – just send an email to the council tax team at council.tax@shropshire.gov.uk.

They'll find your reference for you, then reply to your email within five working days.

I've signed up. It only took me two minutes and it was really easy to do.

If just Shropshire Council staff and councillors received their bills by email, rather than in the post, we estimate that it would save thousands of pounds each year, just think of the savings if all council tax payers signed up.

I hope you'll agree to sign up, and that you'll encourage neighbours, colleagues and family members to do the same.

Please note - if there are two or more people named on your latest council tax bill, you'll need to ask the other people for their OK to send the council tax e-bill to your chosen email address. Otherwise, the other named people will need to complete a separate request to have a separate bill emailed to them too.

Clive Wright
Chief Executive
Shropshire Council

Ellesmere Patients Group

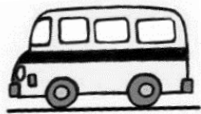
I am writing to you on behalf of the Ellesmere Patients' Group to request your assistance in establishing local health priorities for your area.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which is responsible for prioritising and developing appropriate Health Services for the Shropshire Council Area, is anxious to have patient involvement in this process. Patient Participation Groups based on GP Practices and their patient populations, are well-placed to identify local health issues. An umbrella organisation, the Shropshire Patients' Group, has been established, with the encouragement of the Commissioning Group, to which all GP Patient Groups are invited to send representatives. The purpose of the Shropshire Patient Group is to act as a conduit for the issues, concerns and priorities of local patient populations expressed via their GP Patient Groups and feed them through to the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

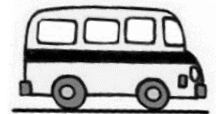
The Ellesmere Patients' Group recognises that Welshampton and Lyneal Parish residents are an important participant in this process. We would therefore very much welcome an input from you on what it considers to be local health priorities. (I should emphasise that we consider it as a given that there should be a full range of clinical and other services available to the local community.)

We therefore invite you to participate in the process, which we envisage will take place twice a year. Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire which will help identify the top 3 healthcare priorities in the Ellesmere area at this time. Please complete the questionnaire and place it in the Ellesmere Patients Group post box located in The Sun in Welshampton. Alternatively, email your responses to epgnewsletter@gmail.com. All responses are required by 31 March 2015. Thank you.

Paul Goulbourne
Chair Ellesmere Patient Group



NORTH SALOP WHEELERS



We are the community transport group formed to serve the village of Whixall in 2003. Twelve years later we now serve the whole of North Shropshire. Part of the role we play in the community is to provide a replacement service for the Shropshire Council run 'Shropshire Link' which was closed down last year as part of budget cuts. Shropshire Council reimburses the fares of the people who transferred over to us but does not fund the vehicles or new customers.

In Welshampton and Lyneal Parish, we operate a fortnightly service into Ellesmere, starting in Whixall at 9.15am calling at any village and hamlet in the Parish as required. The service and route responds to demand and can be 'door to door'. This is a very important service and one you may find one day you or your neighbour will need. Volunteer drivers are needed to keep this service going, currently there is only one driver and should she be ill the planned service would have to be cancelled. You do not have to commit to every Tuesday or even 2 Tuesdays a month. If you can only volunteer one Tuesday every 2 or 3 months it will help.

Some worrying news is that at the end of 2015 all other funding received will run out and we will have to stop some of the other services we provide because there will no longer be resources to cover the costs of rigorous checking and maintenance essential to keep the welfare-dedicated vehicles safe and fit for purpose. Whilst we would hope to mothball the buses there may be a need to sell them. NS Wheelers actually need as little as £90 per week to provide their current services. You can help by sponsoring a bus or pledging cash.

John Harrison

To find out more about the North Salop Wheelers, their community Bus Project or to volunteer your services please contact John Harrison directly on 01948 880037 or by email js.harrison@btinternet.com. Their website is www.northsalopwheelers.co.uk.

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