



Keeping YOU Informed

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council's Local Newsletter

Issue 27 - July 2017

Hello and welcome....

to the latest edition of your parish newsletter. It has been a busy few months for the Parish Council with planning, speeding and Colemere Countryside Heritage Site being key issues.

At the recent local elections, held last May, three long serving parish councillors decided not to stand for re-election. I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the parish to; Bob Richards, Jennifer Wright and Mark Standen for their contribution to the work of the parish council. I would also like to thank Councillor Chris Symes who stood down as vice chair, for all his support over the last year.

We are now seeking to co-opt council members and one of the vacant positions has now been filled, may I welcome Mrs Sheila Stringer who joins us. We still have two vacant positions for councillors to represent the ward of Welshampton and would encourage any interested resident to contact any Councillor or the Clerk for an informal chat about what is involved in the role.

We have also had a change of clerk to the Parish Council. My thanks go to Mrs Rebecca Turner for her recent service and may I welcome Carole Warner who returns to the position.

This year, the Annual Report (2016/17) is included in the newsletter rather than a separate document. 2017/18 is already promising to be challenging and there are many important issues facing us, detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. I and all the members of the Parish Council welcome your comments and feedback and we look forward to serving the parish.

Andrew Haydon
Chairman of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

The Lyneal Trust

As many of you will know, the Lyneal Trust provides holidays and canal day trips for people with disabilities, vulnerabilities or recovering from illness, and their families, friends and carers. Our Trustees and volunteers are passionate about boats and canals and making holidays accessible for all. By the time you read this newsletter our new day-boat, The Shropshire Lady, will have been officially named by HRH Princess Alexandra at Lyneal Wharf.

The Shropshire Lady replaces The Shropshire Lad which has carried out many years of service. The Lady has been designed by the Trust and she is unique on the waterways of Britain, if not the world. She has a



large deck, reached by ramp or lift, an alternative hydraulic joystick steering and cctv screen, an open galley and saloon with comfortable seating and a recliner, huge windows and skylights for all-round visibility. She has also been fitted with a powerful bow-thruster to ensure no bumps when the boat is turning.

Do you know someone or a family who would enjoy a trip on The Lady? A day trip can go as far to the pub at Maestermyn for a spot of lunch.

The Shropshire Lady comes into service in August. For more information, visit lyneal-trust.org.uk or call 01948 710708.

Annual Parish Meeting 2017

The 2017 Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 26 April. This meeting is not a Council meeting but is for all the electors in the Parish.

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Council, Andrew Haydon and he gave the Council's annual report. A copy is included with this newsletter.

Other reports included:

Cllr Williams advised that Shropshire Council's financial position remains poor due to factors such as a reduction in government grants. Several of the council's activities such as hedge cutting, libraries, street sweeping and waste collection may start happening less often.

The Police gave a briefing on the approach to speed enforcement and the work of the Safer Roads Partnership (see article on next page).

Mr Andrew Hodson, Head of the School, reported that the Federation is proving to be very successful and the results in the SATS were outstanding. The budget is very healthy and the schools will gain from the new national funding formula in the long term. The Federation has allowed the schools to pool ideas and experience and hold joint events.

Guy Wellsbury advised Welshampton Church had created a new area for the burial of cremated remains. The quinquennial review identified that little work is needed to the Church

In the Open Forum sessions topics of discussion included possible car parking charges at Colemere and the need for repairs at the communal car park at Stocks Lane, Welshampton.

Welshampton Parish Hall

Since you read our last Village Hall report we have continued with our efforts to upgrade the Hall's facilities. Anyone having used the Hall in the last couple of months will be aware of the refurbished floor. It looks clean and bright and has made a huge difference to the ambience of the building.

Those of you that use the meeting room regularly will be relieved to know that a new, efficient and quieter heating system has just been installed, so you will no longer require coats, scarfs and thermal vests for your meetings.

These improvements have only been possible through the support we are given by our local community. The Burn's night, pantomime and family Ceilidh have all been well attended and now seem to be accepted as annual events. We would now like to add the car boot / table top sale to our annual events calendar. Our first one was held in April. It was well attended and we have plans for a bigger, better one next year and your support once again would be appreciated.

The next Hall sponsored event is the family Ceilidh on Saturday 14 October. Music will be provided by '5 Speed Box' and the caller will be Kim Snell.

Phil Cross and Derek Morris continue to provide monthly Whist and Bingo evenings. Whist is held the first Saturday in the month and Bingo is held the third Wednesday of the month. Please pop along and join in, everyone is made welcome.

The hall committee is also busy supporting private functions. Should you wish to book the hall please contact us on 01948 710859. The cost for booking the Hall is as below:

Main Hall – Including the use of the kitchen

Morning Session	(9.00 – 12.30)	£30.00
Afternoon Session	(12.30 – 17.30)	£30.00
Evening Session	(17.30 – 23.30)	£40.00

Committee Room

Room Only – per session £10.00

Rosemary Drake.

Management Committee Chair

Getting to know your Septic Tank

Included in this newsletter is a leaflet for your information about the use and maintenance of Septic Tanks. An important issue for all households as we have no mains services anywhere in the parish.

There has been reports of foul water discharge into water courses locally so Shropshire Wildlife have asked we all take extra care with our septic tanks.

The Balmer / Hampton Bank B5063

The extension of the existing 30mph speed limit together with a new 40mph "buffer" speed limit, has now been installed and it is hoped will reduce traffic speeds along the B5063.

The Parish Council is aware of residents concerns that not all drivers are adhering to the new limits. Shropshire Council has confirmed they will carry out speed monitoring in due course.

Become a Parish Councillor!

Do you want to help get things done in your neighbourhood? Are you already active in your community? As a councillor, you can make a difference. Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council is looking for 2 people to represent Welshampton Ward on the Council.

Being a councillor is a rewarding form of public service that puts you in a unique position where you can make decisions about local issues and improve the quality of life for people within Welshampton and Lyneal Parish. It gives you the opportunity to help your local community and be part of a dedicated team influencing and providing key services for your area.

The councillor's role takes in:

- Representing the parish ward
- Decision making
- Policy and strategy review and development
- Community leadership and engagement

Being an effective councillor requires some work. The primary role of a councillor is to represent their ward and the people who live in it. Community Leadership is at the heart of modern local government and councils are taking on new responsibilities for working in partnership with other organisations, including Shropshire Council and the voluntary and community sector, to improve services and the quality of life for citizens.

Councillors are expected to take steps to keep in touch with their communities. It is hoped that they will, at least on an annual basis, attend meetings of local community groups. Councillors are also chosen to represent Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council on outside bodies (both local and county) which include a wide range of trusts, associations and committees.

Ellesmere Library

Residents will be aware of the lengthy discussions and negotiations regarding all libraries in the County. We are lucky that the Ellesmere Library has a settled future in the 'Our Space: Ellesmere Community Centre and Library'. You may have seen the press reports of Virginia McKenna OBE conducting the official opening last month. The Library will hopefully move to 'Our Space' at the end of July, early August.

In early September a public open day is being arranged for to promote the new facility and provide residents the opportunity to look around the refurbished centre. The opening hours will stay the same initially, it is hoped that they will extend in the future once all the services from the centre are all running smoothly.

There is a Friends group of the Library:
www.friendsofellesmerelibrary.com.

Broadband in the Parish

Connecting Shropshire has announced that Airband Community Internet Ltd will be providing high-speed wireless broadband access to rural areas as the next part of Shropshire Council's superfast broadband programme. Airband will be deploying wireless broadband, which works by sending a signal from a transmitter on a mast, to a receiver attached to the property. A cable is then run into the building allowing the end-user to access the internet in the same way as any other broadband connection.

Wireless technologies have continued to evolve and provide the same broadband speed capabilities as a fibre optic solution and with the same resilience. Airband will wholesale their network out to other internet service providers (ISPs) so there will be a choice of ISPs like fibre. Generally speaking similar wireless and fibre packages have comparable costs so wireless broadband should not be more expensive.

In the next few months Shropshire Council will prepare a map so we can see which properties are in the current plan. The build will be split into

phases, with phase 1 due for completion at the end of winter 2017. Further information on the phases will be added the Connecting Shropshire website.

Airband technology relies on 'Line of Sight', which means that the receiver on a property needs to have a clear view of one of the Airband transmitters. In the design and planning phase of the project, Airband use advanced software to map each property and establish where a connection can be achieved, without the need to complete an on site survey for each property.

The receiver that will be installed to a property is a small lightweight piece of equipment — about the size of 2 pint milk carton. Where the property is a bit further away from the transmitter, the receiver will have a round, mini dish-like attachment.

For more information visit:
connectingshropshire.co.uk



Annual Parish Council Report 2016/17

The Parish Council has an up-to-date web site, and issues regular newsletters each year to keep residents informed, but it is still recommended good practice for each household to receive an annual update.

During 2016/17 the Parish Council's discussions and decisions centred on 4 main issues: Speeding Traffic, Shropshire Council's Planning Policies Review, Planning Applications and Colemere Country Heritage Site. Updates on Speeding and the Review of Planning Policies are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

Planning continues to occupy a great deal of the Council's attention. The Council is consulted on all applications for planning permission ranging from simple property extensions, change of use, to major construction. All of them receive the Council's full

attention and are discussed openly in our parish meetings. The Council has also requested and attended additional meetings with senior planning officers at Shropshire Council, both to develop a closer working relationship and improve our understanding of planning regulations.

Shropshire Council have not yet released their final plans for countryside access which will include Colemere Country Heritage Site. The future management of the site remains a major concern for the Parish Council and it will report on any impact as soon as it can.

The Financial Report is set out opposite the Council's Reserves stand at £16,871. It is hoped that projects that were held over to this current year will be completed.

Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area Planning Advice Notes

Nature Improvement Areas (NIA) have their origins in Professor Sir John Lawton's Making Space for Nature (2010); they were established to create joined up and resilient ecological networks at a landscape scale. Sir John's report and the UK National Ecosystem Assessment concluded that focussing on individual species and sites remained important, but that this needed to happen at a larger scale so that our habitats were better able to support more species, and that our conservation action should focus on whole natural systems.

NIAs are run by partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations. More information about the characteristics and essential features of NIAs may be found in *Nature Improvement Areas: about the programme*, published by Natural England.

The Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA was created in 2012, along with 11 others across the country. It extends to 40,153 hectares and the broad types of habitat present are wetlands, peat bogs and ponds. The Meres and Mosses form the largest and most ecologically diverse cluster of natural wetlands in lowland England. You will know our Parish is within this NIA.

In March, the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme launched a series of Planning Advice Notes. The purpose of the Notes is to help Parish Councils to respond to development proposals constructively with the aim of maximising the environmental benefits while minimising or, ideally, avoiding harm. Not all development proposals are acceptable even with amendments, though many can be made acceptable and more beneficial.

The Advice Notes cover air, water, biodiversity, access and the use of Community Infrastructure Levy. The series of Planning Advice Notes can be found on the Council's website:
<http://www.welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk/planning-in-the-parish/>

Shropshire Council Consultations

Have YOUR Say!

Residents who follow the Parish Council meetings will have seen from time to time the item 'Consultations' on the agenda. Various bodies, but in the main Shropshire Council, will consult with Town and Parish Councils on their plans / initiatives.

The Parish Council respond to the majority of the consultation documents on behalf of the Parish residents but occasionally it is important for individual residents to respond too.

Over the next few months Shropshire Council will be consulting on libraries, car parking charges, outdoor recreation including rights of way just to name a few. It is important that your views are made directly to Shropshire Council on these key issues.

All Shropshire Council consultation are listed at <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/>

Parish Council Annual Financial Report 2016/17

Payments	Budget 2016/17	Actual 2016/17	Budget 2017/18
General Admin			
Clerk Salary	£4,547.59	£5,077.11	£5,593.03
Admin Expenses/Audit	£1,180.25	£639.91	£900.00
Newsletter	£1,500.00	£280.42	£538.00
Website	£0.00	£0.00	£340.00
Training	£260.00	£0.00	£300.00
Insurance	£648.32	£656.73	£675.00
Meeting Room Hire	£150.00	£170.00	£170.00
Subscriptions	£415.00	£362.67	£375.00
Parish Maintenance			
Street Lighting	£1,882.83	£2,085.05	£2,600.00
Grounds Maintenance	£1,650.00	£1,760.50	£1,680.00
Stocks Lane Car Park	£500.00	£0.00	£150.00
Sports Court	£250.00	£85.50	£100.00
Balmer Phone Box	£0.00	£325.00	£0.00
Other			
Churchyards	£350.00	£700.00	£350.00
Parish Plan	£2,700.00	£0.00	£1,485.97
P3	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00
S137	£200.00	£1,014.72	£200.00
Contingency	£500.00		£500.00
Total Excl. VAT	£16,733.99	£13,157.61	£16,057.00
VAT	£300.00	£394.25	£00.00
Total Incl. VAT	£17,033.99	£13,551.86	£16,057.00

Receipts	Budget 2016/17	Actual 2016/17	Budget 2017/18
Precept	£15,675.00	£15,675.00	£16,052.00
Interest	£5.00	£6.49	£5.00
VAT Refund	£560.00	£260.87	£0.00
Other	£0.00	£50.00	£0.00
Sub Total	£16,240.00	£15,992.36	£16,057.00
Transfer from/to Reserves	£793.99	-£2,440.50	
Total	£17,033.99	£13,551.86	£16,057.00

Balances as at 31 March 2017

Reconciled Bank Balances

Current Account	£3,903.54
Deposit Account	£12,968.28

Net Assets **£16,871.82**

Represented by Reserves

Balance as at 1 April 2017	£14,431.32
Plus excess payments over receipts	£2,440.50
Balance as at 31 March 2017	<u>£16,871.82</u>

Reserves Breakdown as at 31 March 2017

Earmarked Reserves

Clerk's Salary	£1,207.35
P3/Walking Leaflets	£200.00
Sports Court	£414.50
Street Lights	£1,575.50
Elections	£1,000.00
Traffic Calming Measures	£5,000.00
Stocks Lane Car Park	£900.00
	<u>£10,297.35</u>

Contingency Reserves

	£6,574.47
	<u>£16,871.82</u>

Review of Shropshire Council's Planning Policies

In the last edition of the newsletter we advised Shropshire Council were reviewing some of its Planning Policies. The Parish Council considered their initial proposals and had various concerns.

The Review covers:

Housing Requirement and Strategic Distribution

Shropshire Council is wishing to establish a new housing requirement figure for new plan period (2016-2036), and establish how this growth will be distributed between Shrewsbury, Market Towns and rural areas.

Economic Growth and Employment

The review will establish the employment land requirement for the plan period (2016–2036). This requirement must provide sufficient employment land to offer a range and choice of sites to meet the demand in the County.

Rural Policy

This part of the review focusses on three key areas:

1. Identifying a suitable methodology for the identification of Community Hubs* and Community Clusters**, up to 2036.
2. Identifying criteria to achieve appropriate sustainable development in Community Hubs and Community Clusters; and
3. For rural areas outside Community Hubs and Community Clusters, that is considered countryside, identifying a suitable approach to managing development.

The proposed policies propose to use a strict methodology to identify Hubs which does not include community views. Currently where development is permitted in settlements it is controlled by development boundaries. The proposed policies remove development boundaries and relies solely on criteria based policies.

The consultation was accompanied by a 'Call for Sites', which is a request to private, public, and voluntary sector bodies and individuals to submit potential development sites for consideration within the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA). The SLAA is a technical assessment of the capacity, suitability, availability and achievability (including viability) of land for development.

The Parish Council's response* to the consultation**

The key areas of concern are as follows:

This stage of the review was extremely hurried, allowing little time for local consultation. The document itself was short, lacking in detail, frequently contradictory in terminology and unclear in parts to a person lacking in specialist planning matters. This approach is considered to be flawed from a business point of view as ultimately the document needs to be fit for purpose.

The methodology to identify Hubs (a points scoring system) does not cover some basic essential prerequisites for development. This includes mains sewerage, transport network and infrastructure for modern life (broadband/mobile phone coverage for example). Without these essential basics, settlements should not even be allowed to be assessed on a points basis as part of the process of identifying hubs.

The Parish Council is against the removal of development boundaries because land outside a development boundary is open countryside by definition. Development boundaries are needed to provide certainty and security and safe guard against inappropriate and over development.

Next Steps

It is understood that a summary of responses will be published by Shropshire Council during the summer with a further consultation on the Preferred Options later in the autumn. This is the last consultation with communities. Consultation will then concentrate on 'soundness' (Shropshire Council's duty to consult and whether the draft policies are legally compliant) prior to being submitted to an Inspector for examination.

Once the content of the Preferred Options Consultation is known, the Parish Council will need to consider holding a Parish Meeting so that residents can make their views known to the Council prior to any response. The potential changes in Planning Policies could seriously impact the villages in our Parish.

**A Hub is a settlement which has a 'sufficient population to maintain a range of services, facilities and employment. Appropriate sustainable development should contribute to the retention, enhancement of existing services, facilities and employment and also support new services, facilities and employment and housing to meet local needs.*

***A Cluster is a group of two or more small settlements which 'opt-in' and together offer the same as a Hub.*

****The Parish Council's full response can be viewed on the Meeting Papers page of its website:*

www.welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk/meeting-papers/.

A495

Speed enforcement on its way!

Welshampton residents and the Parish Council have regularly voiced concerns about the speed of traffic on A495 through Welshampton. Safer Roads Partnership* (SRP) has taken speed data in the area in the past, but found speeds to be below threshold for speed enforcement activity.

However, after a recent survey taken in February 2017, the 85th percentile speeds was 35.7mph, which is above the threshold for speed enforcement activity. With no injury collisions in the area, SRP has recommended A495 Welshampton be included in the Community Concern Programme.

Community Concern is a sustained programme of speed enforcement activity with the ultimate goal of reducing traffic speeds and increasing feeling of safety to a specific area. The industry measurement for traffic speed is the 85th percentile of all vehicles travelling through an area. Once the 85th percentile speed has reduced below 10%+2mph of the Posted Speed Limit (PSL), the speed enforcement activity ceases. If there is no significant improvement within 12-18 months of a site being launched, the issue is passed to the local authority for investigation into possible engineering solutions.

Results from Speed Survey

The equipment used measured the number of vehicles travelling in both directions and their speeds using radar technology. The equipment was sited between the Parish Hall and Welsh View.

Traffic travelling towards Bronington (northeast)

- o 85th percentile speed 34.6mph, which is below threshold for speed enforcement activity for the 30 mph PSL
 - o 34.4% of vehicles are travelling above speed limit
- Mean (average) speed is 30 mph

Traffic travelling towards Newton (southwest)

- o 85th percentile speed 37.2mph, which is above threshold for speed enforcement activity
 - o 51.2% of vehicles are travelling above speed limit
- Mean speed is 31.7 mph

This gives a combined 85th percentile speed of 35.7mph, with a daily traffic volume of 3193.

SRP will now carry out enforcement and it is expected to be a 'mobile' site. This where a speed camera is operated from a van, motorbike or other portable unit.

Note to the reader:

To determine the speed of vehicles travelling on a road SRP use the industry standard of the 85th percentile speed.

This is the speed that 85% of vehicles travel at or below. For example an 85th percentile speed of 40mph shows that 85% of vehicles travel at or below 40mph. This statistic can also be reversed and shows that 15% of vehicles travel at or higher than 40mph.

*The Safer Roads Partnership is a joint force team for both Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police and its remit is to control and co-ordinate the delivery of the police's Casualty Reduction and Road Safety Strategy.

Welshampton Primary School

Every year we always seem to comment on how fast the school year has gone and this year is certainly no exception — it has really zoomed by! It is also at this time of year in particular, that we can look back and reflect on all the proud achievements each and every child has made. Although achievements are shared with parents, carers and grandparents every Friday during the school's Celebration Assembly, they have also been shared in the form of awards, trophies and certificates at the annual Leavers Service which took place on Thursday 20th July at Welshampton Church. It was also an emotional service as we had to say a 'fond farewell' and 'good luck' to all the Year 6's as they leave us to embark on their secondary education.

The 21st July was the last day of the summer term and marks the start of a much needed summer break for all involved in the school: children, staff, parents and carers alike. Before I sign off though, on behalf of all the staff, we would firstly thank everyone for their continued support this academic year and secondly wish you all a safe and lovely summer break

Rachel Clarke

Meeting Dates

All meetings are held in Welshampton Parish Hall and start at 7pm, unless otherwise stated. The public may attend and speak in the public session.

The Council recently decided to change the schedule of meetings from the fourth Wednesday to the second Wednesday. New dates below:

Wednesday 9 August
Wednesday 13 September
Wednesday 11 October

Welshampton Charity Plant Fair

The 'Glorious Twelfth' Plant Fair was a great success and raised £8,748 which makes over £60,000 raised in the 12 years since the first Fair.

Having reached another milestone, why don't we look back

The first Fair was to raise funds for the replacement of the roof of our beautiful listed St Michael and All Angels Church. Since then, the Fair has become an annual event, held every Spring Bank Holiday Monday.

By 2008, when the church roof was funded, support continued for the church's upkeep and also Shropshire Macmillan Cancer Support, which was then fund-raising for their new cancer support area at the local Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

How the Fair has grown.....

2006: Inaugural May Fair, envisaged & organised by Keith & Doris Egerton. Village scarecrow competition

2007: Organising Committee set up, chaired by David Skipper. 1st plant marquee!

2010: Fair opened by Lord Kenyon of Gredington
Our Welshampton's Damsons booklet launched (now out of stock)

2011: Macmillan centenary so we introduced our "Special Plants" Auction in celebration, with auctioneer Andrew Beeston of Halls

2012: Expert advice on garden design from Richard Lucas, nationally acclaimed garden designer and Chelsea Gold Medal winner.

2013: Ask the Experts with Margaret Thrower & Richard Lucas

2015: Fair's 10th anniversary celebrations.
Emblem Rose Welshampton Fair, donated by Mary Jinks of Country Garden Roses at Hadnal.
Special informal talk "My passion for Borders" by Jan Lomas, Head Gardener at the Duke and Duchess of Westminsters' Eaton Hall.
Celebration floral display by Ruth Clarke
Celebration cake raffle

BUT none of these Fairs could have taken place without all the help from our sponsors, donators and especially all the local people who work so very hard to make it all happen. Thank you never sounds enough but to all of you: Thank you!

Not wishing to rest on our laurels watch out for improvements next year!

The Plant Fair Committee

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Welshampton Ward

Andrew Haydon (Chair)
Mike Dinsdale (Vice Chair)
Sarah Jefferies
Sheila Stringer
2 Vacancies

Lyneal Ward

Chris Symes
Lawrence Houghton MBE
Martin Withington

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

Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams 01939 234198

The information in this newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01743 741611 for further details.



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Useful Contact Details

Shropshire Council 0345 678 9000
customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk
www.shropshire.gov.uk

Emergency Contacts

In most emergencies you should dial 999 or 112

For non - emergencies

West Mercia Police	101
Shropshire Fire & Rescue	01743 260200
West Mids Ambulance Service	01743 273649

Community Contacts

Welshampton Parish Hall
wphmanagement1@gmail.com 01948 710859

Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:

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