

**Hello and welcome....** and I trust you are all keeping safe and well.

On Saturday 26 September, I had the great pleasure of awarding Mrs Glo Wright the Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council Community Service Award 2020. It had been planned to present this to Glo back in April, but you do not need reminding why it was postponed. We were able to gather in small groups, with representatives of the Church, School and Glo's two daughters all wishing her congratulations. Glo was nominated by many members of our community and you can read one below. On behalf of the Parish Council and the whole local community, congratulations again Glo!

Some more good news. The Parish Council welcomed the new Councillor for Welshampton Ward, Karen Bland at its last meeting. Karen too had to wait from first expressing an interest back in March to being co-opted at the Council's August meeting, the first since the Council resumed holding meetings.

Please take time to read the main article inside about Broadband. Although some areas within the Parish have superfast broadband, the speed outside the villages is very poor. If enough properties are put forward, we may all stand a chance in increasing speeds. The other smaller article I'd recommend you read is 'what3 words'. The app is totally free to download and use.

Finally, as harvest continues together with routine farming activities, please take care on the lanes. You may come across mud on the lanes during the day. If there has been rain, it can be very dangerous. We would encourage farmers and contractors to keep the lanes clear, at the very least, at the end of each day.

**Andrew Haydon**

Chairman of Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

## Community Service Award 2020



The recipient of the Community Service Award 2020 is Mrs Glo Wright.

Glo received many nominations and this one captured the feelings of many people:

"Glo plays an important part within our village community, linking many organisations together: Parish Hall, Walkers, Afternoon Club, Mothers Union, Spring Fayre, School and Church. I'm sure there are others! She is very interested in the school attending worship in school on Fridays and helping out on school trips. The children are always delighted to see her."

Glo wished to thank everyone who had nominated her. "I had the shock of my life when Andy rang to tell me that I was receiving this wonderful award and I can't see how it ever came about. What had I done

to deserve it? I may serve on a number of committees, but half the time I feel that I'm there to make up the numbers. I don't feel that I do actually do anything. Everyone around me does it all, I'm just there. I do, however, love and enjoy the environment, especially my connection with the Church and school. I am greatly humbled and hugely honoured to receive this award. Thank you so much."

We all know how much Glo does, from mowing grass to making scones and soups for all to enjoy. As her family put it. "Mum has a finger in every pie, because at the end of the day she really cares about Welshampton village and the people who live there."



Left to right: Andrew Hodson, (Headteacher) Glo Wright, Cllr Guy Wellsbury and Cllr Andrew Haydon

## Parish Updates

### Community Grants

Every year the Parish Council puts aside an amount of funds to help local community groups. There are agreed criteria and an application form which can be obtained from the Clerk. Completed applications must be submitted by 30 November and will be considered at the December Parish Council meeting.

All applications will be considered on their individual merits.

### Parish Maintenance

The Parish Council maintains a number of community areas within the parish. For example, the grounds surrounding Stocks Lane community car park, the field in Lyneal near the Guide Centre and the area by the phone kiosk in Colemere. The work is split into 3 contracts and awarded on a two year basis. The contracts are due for renewal from April 2021. Quotations are being invited for submission by 1 December 2020.

If you are interested to quote for all or any of the work, or would like to know more, please contact the Clerk.

### Footpaths in the Parish

We have received reports of some missing signage on some of the paths in the Parish. Not only is it annoying when walking but could be potentially dangerous.

Please help us with our informal audit by checking the paths near to you and report any missing and additional signage to the Clerk. Thank you.

## Community Speed Watch

The Parish Council included a flyer about Community Speed Watch in its Summer edition of the newsletter. We have had some response but not quite enough to meet the minimum number required by the Police to set up a group.

### How does it work?

At specified safe locations, volunteers monitor the speed of passing vehicles with a hand-held speed detection device. Offending vehicles' details are recorded on a log sheet, including the names and signatures of the volunteers witnessing the offence and other key information. The aim is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible. It aims to encourage motorists to drive at a safe and appropriate speed, reduce speed in areas of concern, re-educate drivers about the dangers of speeding and address concerns from local residents about cars speeding through their communities.

If you are interested in being part of Welshampton Community Speed Watch Group please contact the Clerk.

## Welshampton Parish Hall

As COVID-19 continues to dictate normal functions within the hall, we update again that Welshampton Parish Hall **remains closed**.

The committee still have the best interests of the hall and the community at heart. We have been using the time and the grant funding we worked so hard for to make improvements. We have a provisional start date for the work around the replacement windows for the beginning of October.

We are monitoring the hall on a regular basis to ensure it is secure and in sound repair. Our funds are healthy and not a threat to our immediate future.

We are reviewing the situation regularly, staying in touch with planned meetings using 'Zoom' and will try to reopen when it is safe to do so although it is impossible to forecast when that may be.

The Committee would like to thank Ruth Dinsdale for another super display of flowers in our boxes this year, the flowers have again been removed for safe keeping by Ruth who continues to look after them at home.

Keep very safe and see you all very soon

**Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Hall Management Committee**

## what3words



Just over 80% of services in the UK now use what3words, but not everyone knows how to use it. All you need to do is download the what3words app on your phone in case you need to call 999.

You can find a full list of those services that accept what3words here: <https://what3words.com/news/emergency/three-words-for-a-faster-emergency-response>.

You can also use what3words to report incidents with organisations like National Grid, Network Rail and the Environmental Agency: <https://what3words.com/report-incident-locations-efficiently>.

## Broadband — can we improve speeds in the Parish?

Extra funding to help rural premises benefit from a faster broadband connection is now available in Shropshire. The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme is part of the Government's strategic objective of increasing gigabit-capable coverage across the UK.

Shropshire Council has made up to £1 million of additional funding available to 'top-up' the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

For homes, the maximum funding per voucher will be £4,000, thanks to an extra £2,500 per voucher from Shropshire Council. Eligible businesses can receive an additional £3,500, bringing the maximum funding per voucher to £7,000. To qualify for the scheme, residents/businesses must be located in a rural area and be unable to get broadband speeds of 100Mbps.

The Parish Council has registered as a Community Leader with Openreach and will coordinate the application. If you would like to apply for a voucher, please email your name, address and postcode to the Clerk. The more people join in the Community Partnership the greater the chance of covering the fixed costs

### A few Q&As

*Q. What happens if it costs more than the value of the voucher to provide premises with a gigabit-capable broadband connection?*

A. Any additional cost must be covered by the applicants and/or the broadband infrastructure supplier.

*Q. Can I apply as a single premise (residential or*

*business)?*

A. No. Although, in this instance, we'd urge you to contact Connecting Shropshire for a discussion for us to explore potential solutions.

*Q. Why do groups of 2 or more premises need to be included in a group scheme?*

A. This stipulation has been set by DCMS in order to make the work better value for money. The more premises covered in the scheme, the more chance that the fixed costs can be covered by the value of the voucher.

*Q. When does the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme end?*

A. March 2021. All vouchers must be applied for by 31 March 2021, after which date the supplier have up to 12 months to provide the connection to the applicants.

*Q. What happens when the money allocated by Shropshire Council to top-up the scheme runs out?*

A. The top-up funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Having said that, it's unlikely that the funding will be used up before the current scheme closes to application on 31 March 2021.

Once the Council has submitted all the addresses Openreach will confirm the scope of the project, work through some initial checks to provide a ballpark cost for providing a new fibre infrastructure for the community so we can decide whether it is possible to proceed to the next step. This may take up to 3 weeks from submission.

If you are interested in joining the Community Fibre Project please contact the Clerk by 31 October — don't delay!

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## A new grant to help Shropshire residents affected by COVID-19

Shropshire Council has been allocated a 'Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies' to support people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19.

If someone you know finds it difficult to pay for some of their essential costs due to COVID-19, or you know someone who has become homeless or is concerned about losing their home, they can call Shropshire Council us on 0345 678 9078. Shropshire Council will go through an initial application with them to establish their circumstances and will advise them of any other information they need to provide for the Council to consider their application. The request will then be passed to a specialist adviser who will discuss the application with them. When the Council has all the information it needs, a decision will be made on

whether an award can be made and they will advise the person how the award will be made.

**Shropshire Council is able to accept applications with immediate effect. Please note that this is limited funding and once spent, the Council will no longer be able to provide assistance from this grant funding so please don't delay.**

If you have any queries regarding this grant, please contact Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9078.

Further information is available on Gov.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-authority-emergency-assistance-grant-for-food-and-essential-supplies/coronavirus-covid-19-local-authority-emergency-assistance-grant-for-food-and-essential-supplies>



## Free Energy Advice

The Keep Shropshire Warm service continues to support residents across Shropshire, by offering free and impartial support to residents. Many of us will be spending more time at home as autumn and winter approaches – and using more energy at the same time!

If you're struggling or worried about higher bills or feel like you may struggle to pay your energy bills due to a change in your circumstances – the Keep Shropshire Warm team could help. They can check bills and tariffs, speak to suppliers on your behalf and help access grants and discounts.

Call Keep Shropshire Warm on **0800 112 3743** or email [advice@mea.org.uk](mailto:advice@mea.org.uk)

The scheme is backed by Shropshire Council and is managed by Shrewsbury based energy charity, Marches Energy Agency



## Electoral Registration Annual Canvass 2020

*Message from the Elections Team,  
Shropshire Council:*

It's that time of year again where residents living in the Shropshire Council area will receive a communication either by email or in paper format asking them to check and update information that appears on the electoral register for their address. The form ensures that Shropshire Council can keep the electoral register up-to-date and identify any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so.

If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages Shropshire Council send. If you need to register, the easiest way is online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote), or the Council will send you information explaining how to do this in the post.

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter communications and check the details.

### Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

#### Welshampton Ward

Andrew Haydon (Chair)  
Mike Dinsdale (Vice Chair)  
Karen Bland  
Sarah Jefferies  
Sheila Stringer  
Guy Wellsbury

#### 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

### Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are held in Welshampton Parish Hall and start at 7pm normally on the second Wednesday of the month. The public may attend and speak in the public session.

The information in this newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 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  
welshamptonphcontact@gmail.com 01948 710964

#### Keeping YOU Informed is produced by:

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